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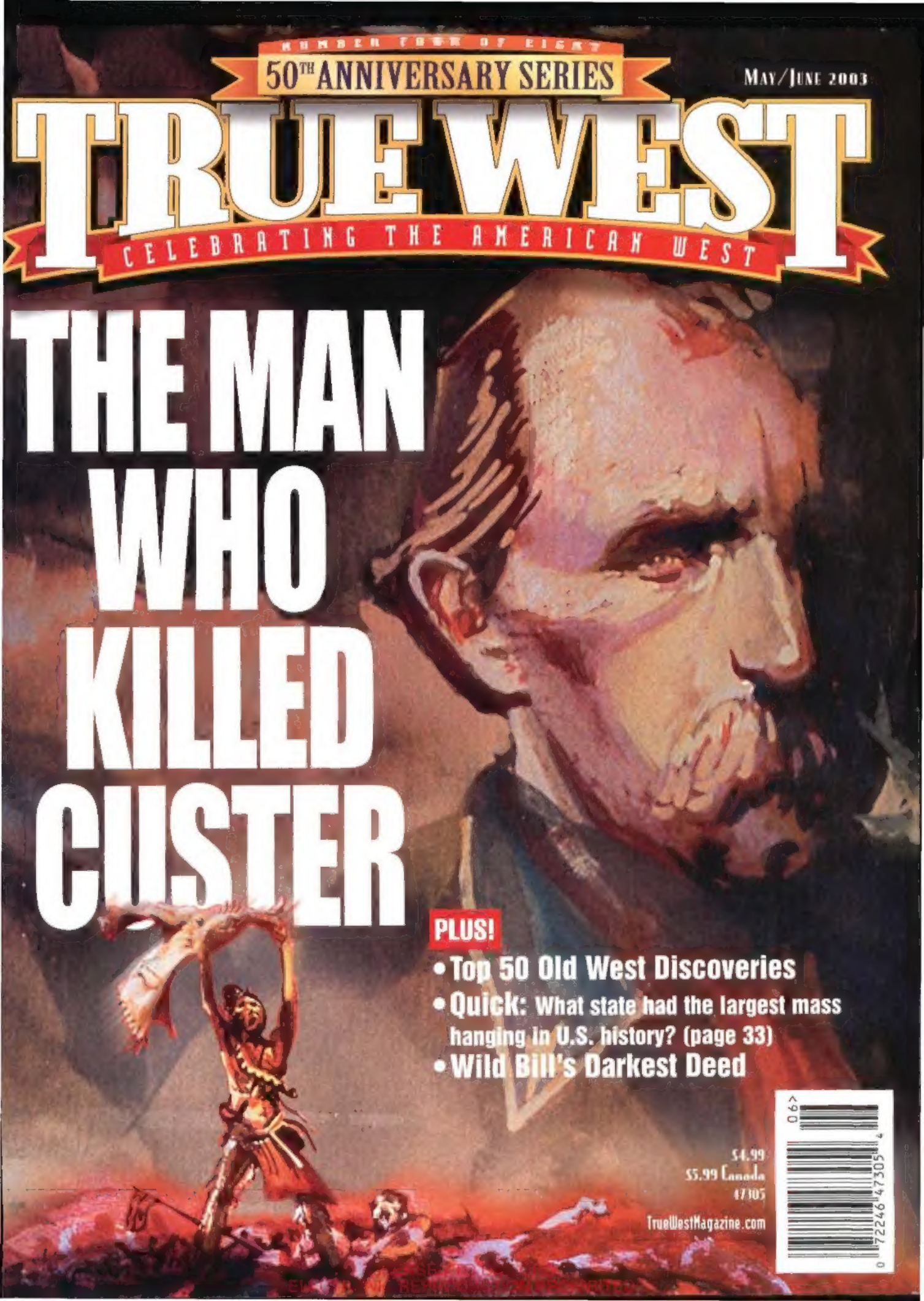

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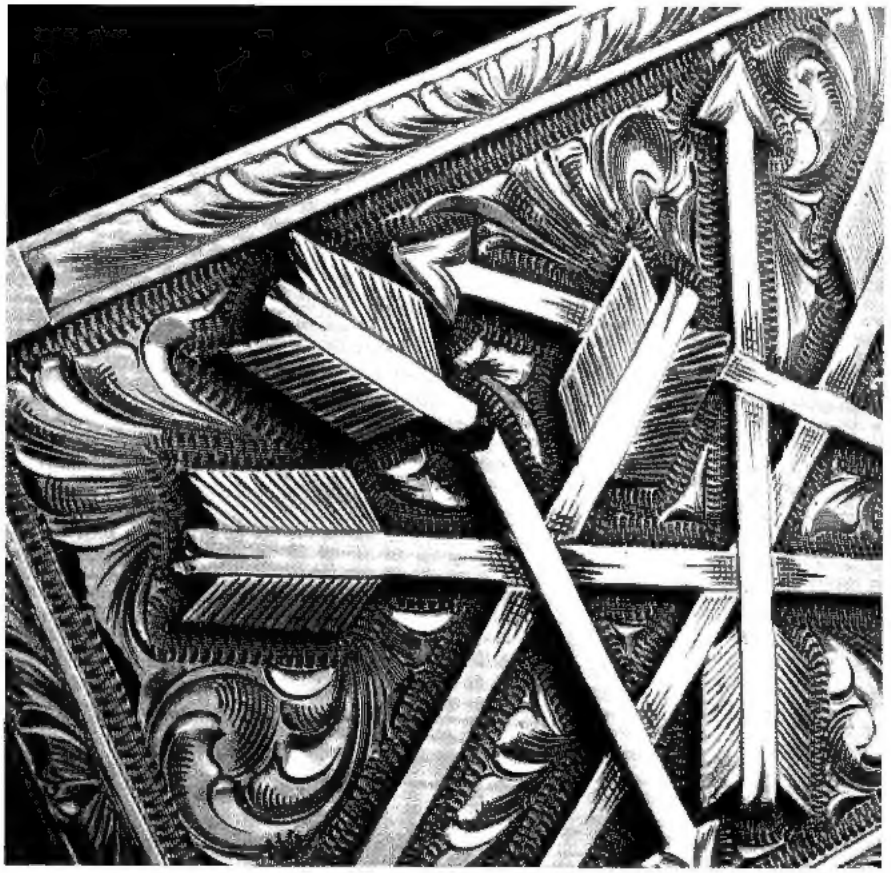

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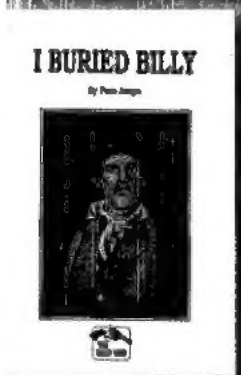
ANTRIM & BILLY by Don Dinn. Little has been written about William Antrim, the only father Billy the Kid ever knew. Read about Billy's upbringing and his relationship with his step father, much of it in Antrim's own words. New information is given on Joe Antrim, Billy's brother, who was known to be interviewed only once. 183 pages, 32 illustrations, index, notes, bibliography. Hardcover with dustjacket. $23.95 postage paid.



I BURIED BILLY by Paco Anaya. I, the writer, and my brother, dressed Billy with these clothes and laid him on a high bed. There we watched, and on the next day we buried him. . . Paco Anaya. The manuscript was dictated by Paco to his son, Louis, in 1931 and it has remained in the family until now. It may be the last firsthand account about Billy the Kid that will ever be found. 160 pages, 55 illustrations. Hard cover with dustjacket. With an 11x17 color reproduction of the map of Fort Sumner drawn by Charley Foor. $23.95 postage paid.

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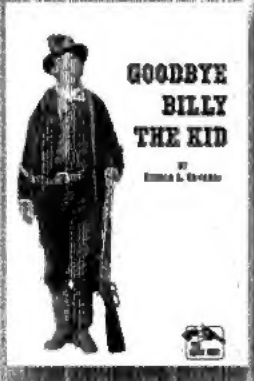
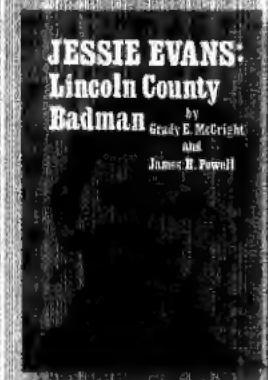


GOODBYE BILLY THE KID by Harold Edwards. "Quien es?" (Who is it) At the same time backing away from me toward the door through which Garrett only a few seconds before had passed. –John Poe, Garrett's deputy. The Kid came into national prominence when he shot Deputies Bell and Olinger at the Lincoln Courthouse and casually rode out of town escaping his hanging. But the real legend began with his death at midnight on July 14, 1881. A brief overview of Billy's life is covered and numerous obituaries published at his death are included. 168 pages, 41 illus. Hardcover with dustjacket. $23.95 post paid.



JESSIE EVANS: Lincoln County Badman, by McCright and Powell. When the Kid and Jessie faced each other in the street at Lincoln, Jessie yelled that it would be impossible for him to deal with Billy, and he was in favor of shooting it out then and there. Being acquainted with Jessie, the Kid declined the challenge and made no move for his gun. Read about this mysterious gunfighter who was probably the killer of John Tunstall. 240 pages, 51 illus. Hardcover with dustjacket. $25.95 postage paid

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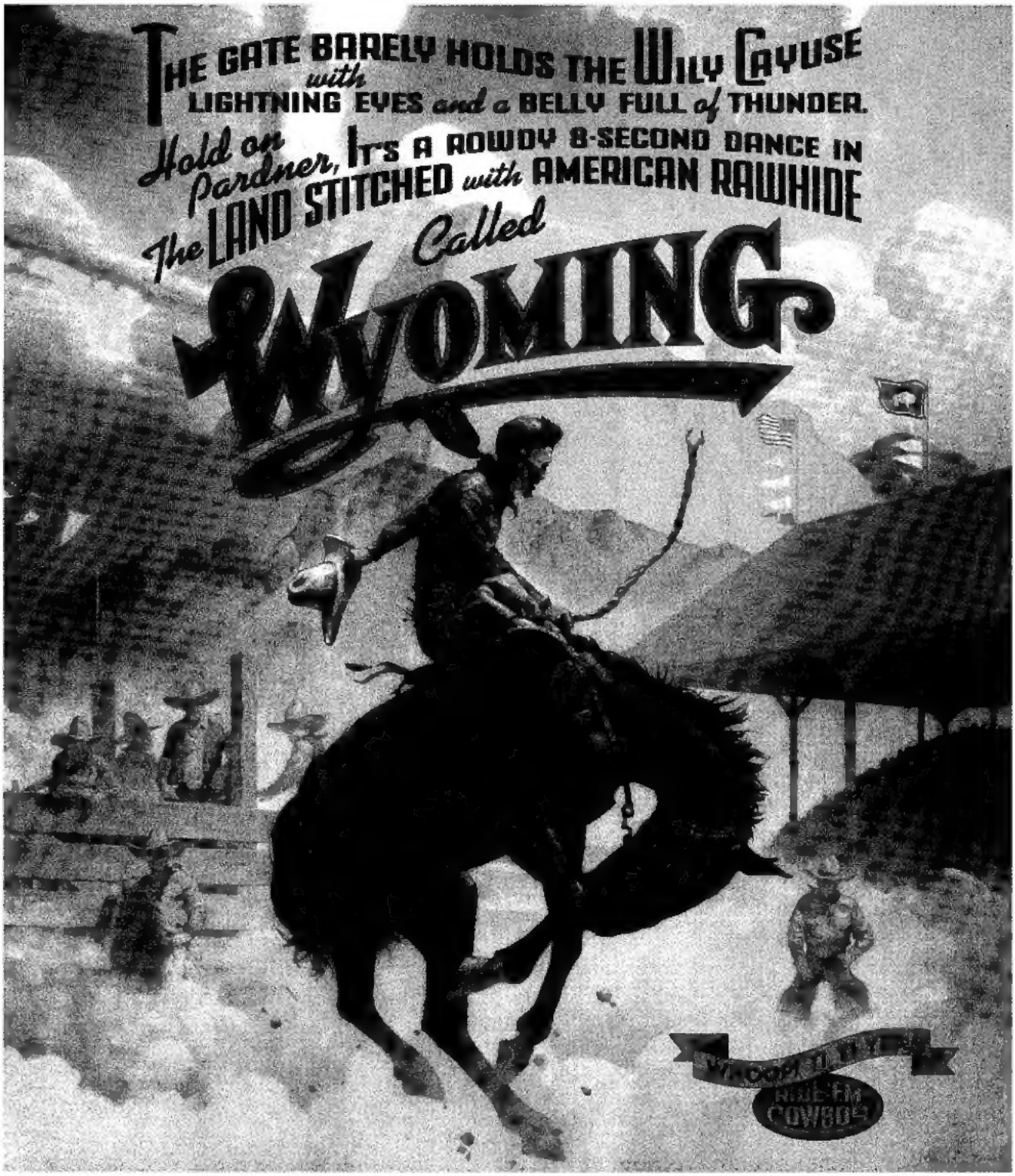
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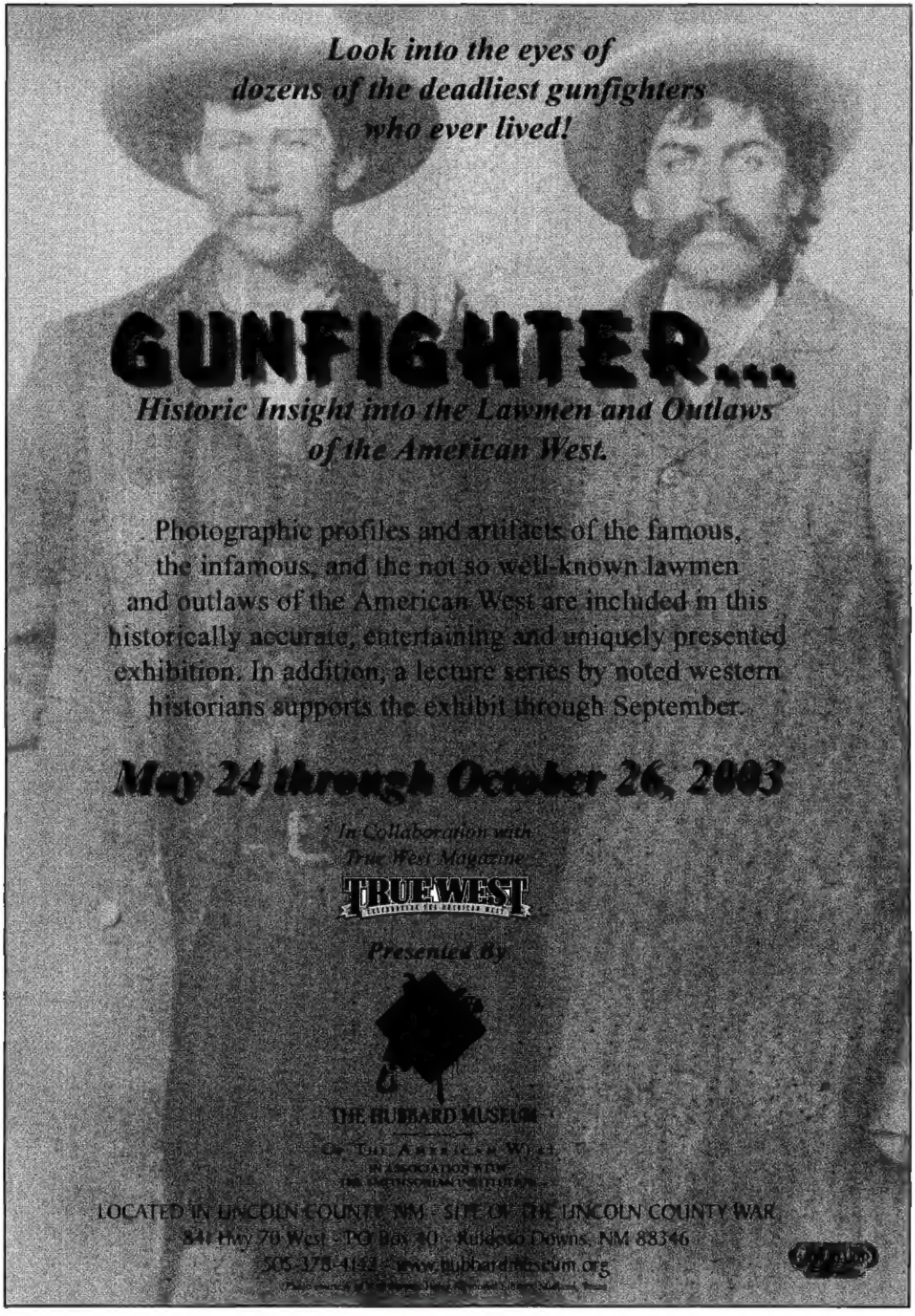
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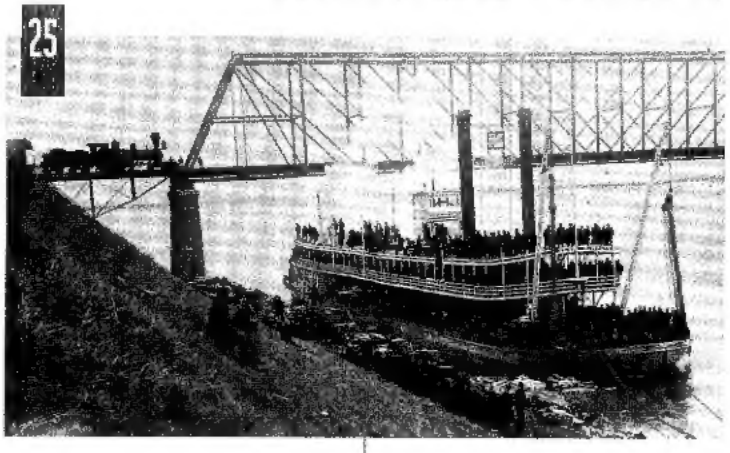

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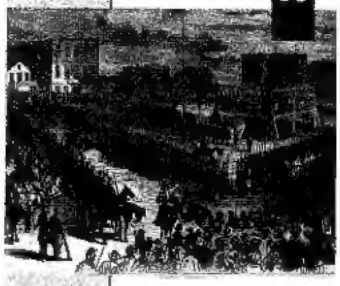

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OUR COVER

Custer and the warrior who may have killed him. —BBB

– COVER DESIGN BY DANIEL HARSHBERGER –

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An Exclusive Tribute Authorized By The Wayne Family

The John Wayne Coach Gun

John Wayne was a man we will always remember with fondness and respect. More than anyone else in recent times, he represented the best of the American spirit. He spoke to us with honesty and authority and never compromised his principles. And even in our worst moments of national self-doubt, he showed us what it meant to be a real American and be proud of it.

The firearms used by John Wayne in his many Western films were authentic working guns, common to the American frontier. Notable among these was the coach gun, a short double-barreled shotgun carried by the stagecoach's shotgun rider, to protect the passengers and the strongbox from any danger. You've seen this formidable gun in many of Wayne's Western films...behind the bar, in the sheriff's gun rack and in the hands of lawmen and outlaws, farmers and cattlemen. Like "The Duke" himself, it has an air of unquestionable authority.

Today, in remembrance and tribute to this distinguished American, and legendary actor, the United States Society of Arms and Armour, with the authorization of the Wayne Family, proudly presents the **John Wayne Coach Gun.** This is the first shotgun authorized by the Wayne Family.

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Here is a real, firing 12-gauge double-barreled coach gun, true to the lines of the original 19th century shotgun used by Wayne in many of his notable Western films. Each gun features traditional external hammers combined with a modern boxlock action and the time-tested rotary bolt lock-up. The exposed hammers serve a dual purpose...as a cocking system and as a visual safety indication – unlike hammerless doubles, this gun immediately tells you when it is cocked.

In the tradition of the times, it has a semi-beavertail forearm with Schnabel tip, a steel buttplate and 18 1/2" barrels. Featured on the royal blue barrels in 24-karat gold are a stagecoach, the legend "John Wayne Coach Gun," John Wayne's signature, and a personal motto of John Wayne's, *"I won't be wronged, I won't be insulted."* A classic portrait of John Wayne is laser-carved on the hand polished walnut buttstock.

Only 2,500 John Wayne Coach Guns have been authorized for this edition, and demand is expected to be very strong. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. We will arrange delivery of your Coach Gun through a licensed dealer of your choice. If for any reason you are less than satisfied, you may return it in original unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund. Act today to secure your own Tribute before the edition closes.

A classic portrait of John Wayne is laser-carved on the buttstock. Note the detail in the design.

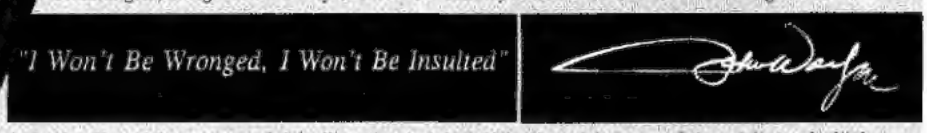
John Wayne's Red River "D" brand, applied in 24-karat gold, adorns the barrel release lever.

A cartouche on the underside of the receiver contains the edition number of the Tribute.

The blued steel buttplate is etched with the logo of Wayne Enterprises featuring a silhouette of John Wayne.

JOHN WAYNE COACH GUN

On the right-side of the barrel, a stagecoach with a six-up team of horses at full gallop is featured in lustrous 24-karat gold, along with the title of the Tribute, "John Wayne Coach Gun," also in 24-karat gold.



Left side of barrel features one of John Wayne's principles of life, "I won't be wronged, I won't be insulted," along with a depiction of John Wayne's distinctive signature, both in 24-karat gold.

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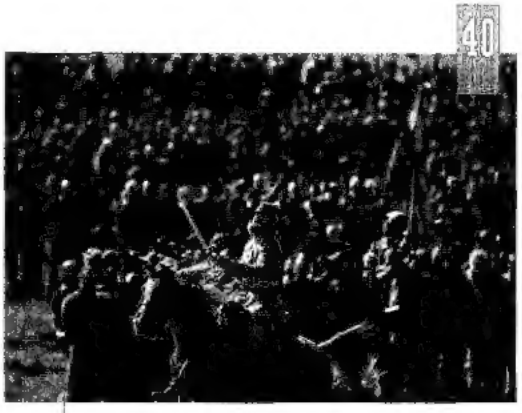

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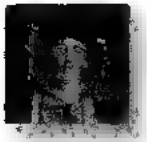

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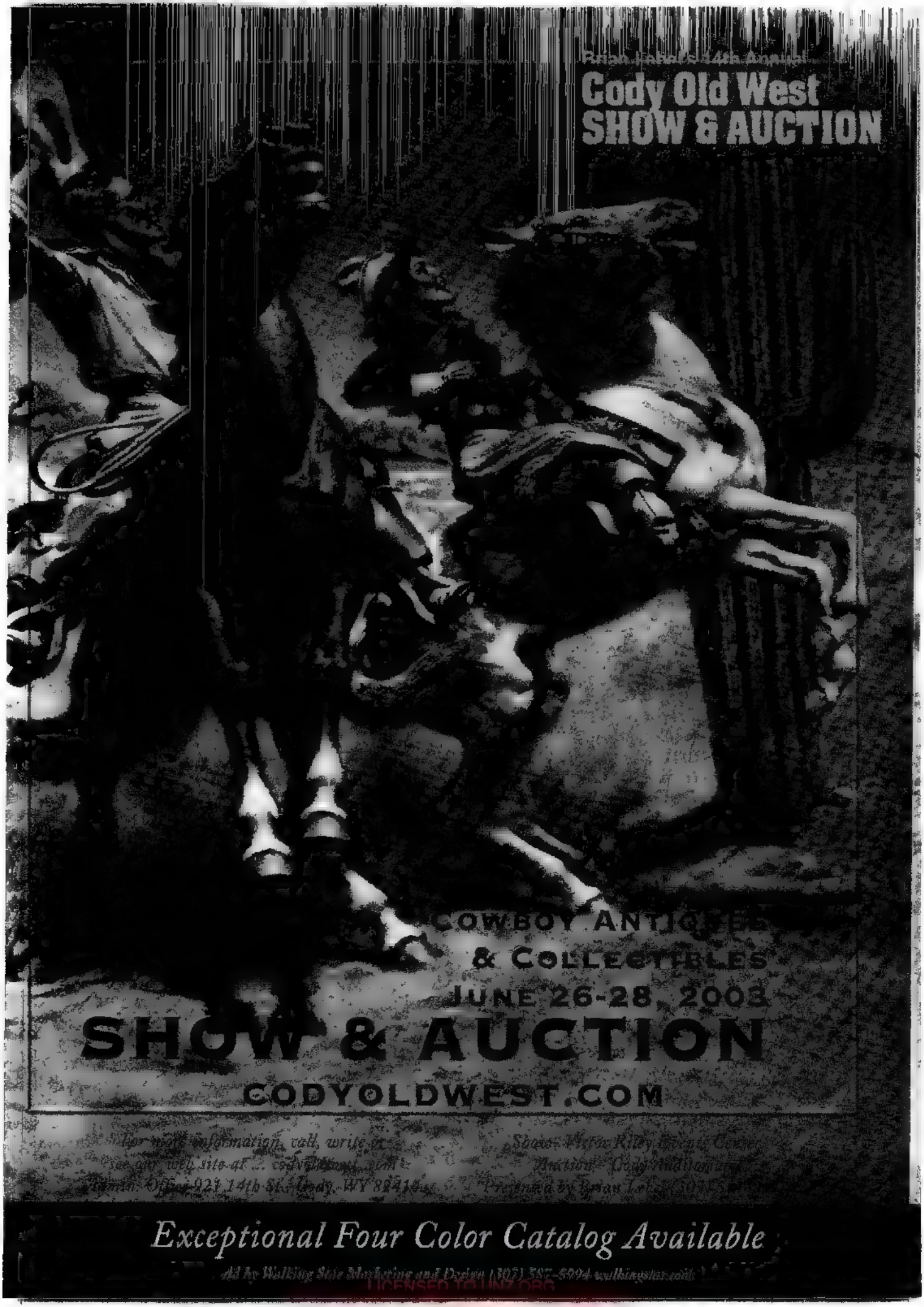
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A Fresh Look

New trails across the Old West.

– Courtesy Robert G. McCubbin –

• Nothing in our Old West world is more explosive than an opinion (of any kind) combined with the word "Custer." Did White Bull really kill "Long Hair"? As I type this, I'm looking at the last known photograph of Custer (left) which hangs in my office. It was taken two months before his death. His hair is short. Hmmmm. Still **Jana Bommersbach** weighs in with a brave account (in more ways than one, page 20).

• Most of us don't think about Indian Wars in Minnesota, yet one of the West's bloodiest occurred in the seemingly placid land of 10,000 lakes. Our own **Larry Johns III** (see masthead, page 8) turned us on to his father, **Larry H. Johns, Jr.**, who lives in Minnesota and is a lifelong student of the bloody war that resulted in the largest mass hanging in America's history (page 33).

• **Johnny Boggs** is one of our favorite discoveries (see his take on "The Top 50 Old West Discoveries," page 25). He is funny, articulate, prolific and he knows his history.

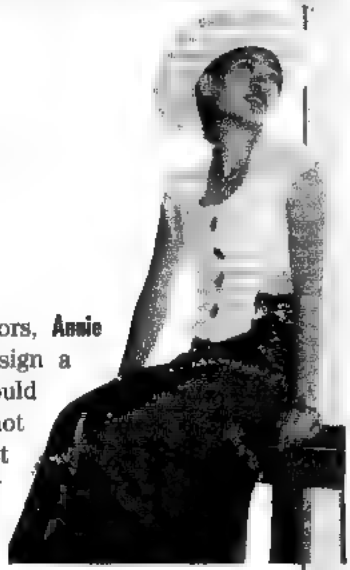
• **Highlights & Insights** from our recent **Reader's Poll:** a whopping 94% of you read *Classic Gunfights;* 92% visit historical sites; 90% rent Western videos / DVDs; 73% collect *True West* and Western memorabilia; 72% own a fixed-blade knife. The only negative is that 27% of you aren't reading this editorial.

Johnny D. Boggs looking grave.

– By Lisa E. Smith –

• Speaking of *Classic Gunfights*, **Joseph Rosa** knows more about **Wild Bill Hickok** than anyone on the planet. His gracious contribution (he corrected at least a half-dozen mistakes in our narrative) in the "Rock Creek Killfest" (page 38) is greatly appreciated.

• One of our prettiest neighbors, **Annie Bianco Ellett,** asked us to design a publicity photo that she could sign at the International Shot Show in Orlando, Florida, last February. Colt Fire Arms saw the resulting layout created by our intrepid designer **Abby Pearson** (*right*) and photographed by **John Beckett.** Colt liked it so much they thought it would make a great back cover. We agree.



One Fine Designer: Abby Pearson.

– BBB –

• One of the most authentic Old West ad campaigns in a long time (page 3) has been created by Barnhart/CMI Advertising in Cheyenne and Denver. Art director **Monte Mead** told us **Eric Bowman** of Tigard, Oregon, illustrated the excellent bronco image, and the authentic typography (the groovy old style lettering) was created by **Michael Doret** of Hollywood, California. Excellent work guys, and we're proud to have it in the magazine.

Gregg Call, of Kalispell, Montana, painted the trooper in the Wyoming ad (right) that appeared in our May/June 2002 issue.

– Courtesy Wyoming Travel and Tourism –

Old West Quote: *"The only new thing in the world, is the history you don't know."*
—Harry Truman

For a behind-the-scenes look at running this magazine, check out BBB's daily journal at truewestmagazine.com

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Shootout Box

True West readers speak out

Old West collector Vincent Mercaldo.

COURTESY WILLIAM B. SECREST

Received the January 2003 *True West* and as a fanatical lover of Old West photos I had a great time sifting through your selection of the 50 best. It was great to see a picture of Bob McCubbin sitting in the trophy room of his new home—or as he calls it, his "den, with appended kitchen and bedroom." Having known Vincent Mercaldo and Fred Mazulla, I know a "king" when I see one. I enclose a photo of Vince in his New York "den" back in the 1950s, where he did all his own photo work. Yes, those are all original photos on his wall. I think it's important to remember all these early collectors and I wish I knew more about them.

WILLIAM B. SECREST
FRESNO, CA

Dalton Discrepancies?

Just how did the poorly disguised Daltons walk 100 yards to the banks to be robbed, carrying rifles? Bob Boze Bell states (*Classic Gunfights*, Feb/March 2003) that they did not wear dusters and that pistols were not used? Like most writers, BBB leaves out the weapons used as well as calibers—so much for in-depth research.

J.H. RHODES
ELGIN, AZ

BBB responds: *A worker who walked behind the Daltons as they approached the Coffeyville banks testified he thought they were hunters. It was author Robert Barr Smith who found evidence that the Daltons may have worn dusters. I never said they didn't. Lue Barndollar's excellent book* What Really Happened on October 5, 1892, *has photos of some pistols and rifles the Daltons carried, and the Defenders Museum in Coffeyville has some of these weapons on display. Go there. Buy the book. You'll be glad you did.*

Gun Wars

Although I agree with most of Phil Spangenberger's selection of the "Top Guns" (Feb/March 2003), I was disappointed to see the Remington Double Deringer (a.k.a. Model 95 Double Deringer) was not included. Over 150,000 were manufactured between 1866 and 1953. Also, two guns pictured in the article were slightly misidentified: #4, identified as an 1873 Winchester Rifle and #12, identified as an 1866 Winchester Rifle, when in both cases, carbines are pictured.

HARRY MCNEER
VIA THE INTERNET

The term "rifle" used in the article was a generic description intended to include both rifles and carbines of a given model.

Not Measuring Up

I buy *True West* because I want to read new or better written stories about the Old West. If your Feb/March 2003 issue is a preview of things to come, you no longer measure up to the job. This issue has 18 out of 120 total pages of rather mediocre stories I might think about reading and the rest is trivia, fashion and travel—you've become a flea market catalogue that I can no longer afford. Good luck.

ALLEN HATLEY
VIA THE INTERNET

Self-Defense

April 2003 features another thought-provoking article, "50 Moments that Define the Old West." But Leo Banks' thoughts on Billy the Kid have provoked me in a different fashion. "Kid had four confirmed kills, all self-defense." In what time and place is killing two lawmen during a jailbreak considered "self-defense?"

MARK BOARDMAN
VIA THE INTERNET

Leo Banks responds: *I'm not a lawyer, but give me an honest jury and a judge not in Governor Lew Wallace's pocket and I'll wager my best hat I could've gotten the Kid off on self-defense.*

Mormon Shoot-out

In his article on the Mountain Meadows Massacre (April 2003), Will Bagley asks why Brigham Young sent a message telling people not to kill the emigrants if he had not already ordered it. One reason is the declarations from many [Mormons] to take the law into their own hands. My great-great grandfather's journal talks of letting the emigrants camp on one of his farms. He provided food and water for them and fodder for the horses. In repayment, the emigrants poisoned his well, drove off or killed livestock and trashed the place. This was not a singular occurrence. Young was most certainly aware and made every effort to avert the slaughter. It's unfortunate that Mr. Bagley found his answer and then worked back for the question.

JOHN S. GARDNER
LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

I just finished reading *Blood of the Prophets: Brigham Young and the Massacre at Mountain Meadows* by Will Bagley. Isn't it time to put the blame where it belongs? Isn't it time for certain "Christians" to finally accept the blame for murdering all of those Arkansas emigrants instead of

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You think you know Wyatt Earp? Take the *True West* quiz at ww.truewestmagazine.com

"passing the buck" to a few scapegoats and Indians?

MARGARET ARTMAN
SIDELL, IL

Read the April 2003 article, "Did Brigham Young Order a Massacre?" to hear both sides to the controversy.

Slighting Buffalo Bill

Leo Banks slights Buffalo Bill twice in his "50 Moments that Define the Old West" (April 2003). First, his presence in the Pony Express is not a "false legend." There is plenty of convincing evidence that Cody did indeed participate in the Pony Express. Secondly, any list that claims to include significant events in the development of the Western myth must include the beginning of Buffalo Bill's Wild West in 1883, which laid the foundation for everything from movie Westerns to modern rodeo.

STEVE FRIESEN, DIRECTOR
BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM AND GRAVE
GOLDEN, COLORADO

Corrections

- *Image #25, which should have been a Colt Dragoon Revolver (p. 41, Feb/March 2003) is actually a '51 Navy.*
- *Mormon militia leader John D. Lee was executed by a firing squad, not hanged as we reported (p. 31, April 2003).*
- *The Gadsden Purchase equaled 29,640 square miles, not 30,000 acres (p. 39, April 2003).*

We Welcome Your Comments

"Now let the letters roll in and bare your very soul. That is what has always kept us going and I think it always will." —Joe Small, True West founder.

Send your letters to Editor, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327 Email. editor@truewestmagazine.com

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EXPERIENCE THE OLD WEST

APRIL

24-27, **Country Thunder USA:** Florence, AZ. The 10th anniversary concert will be headlined by Alan Jackson. The 14-artist bill also includes Chris LeDoux, Neal McCoy, Terri Clark, Jo Dee Messina and Lonestar. **Information:** 480-966-9920 or www.countrythunder.com

28-29, **Important Firearms Auction:** The Phoenix Club, Anaheim, CA. Auction features Chas. Schreiner III's Texas Ranger firearms and Western memorabilia. Call for preview times. **Information:** 714-939-1170 or www.littlejohnsauctionservice.com

The Sheridan Inn where Buffalo Bill held auditions for his Wild West Show.
– Courtesy Sheridan Heritage Center, Inc. –

The Sheridan Inn's "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Days" Sheridan, WY, June 20-22

The 110th anniversary celebration will feature an authentic Wild West Show, parade and merchants. **Information:** 307-674-2178

Still photographer Ned Scott captured director John Ford and actor Tim Holt strolling through Monument Valley during the filming of Stagecoach.
– Courtesy National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum –

Now through May, **Capturing a Western Epic: *Stagecoach* through the Lens of Hollywood Stillman Ned Scott:** Oklahoma City, OK. The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum exhibits Scott's publicity stills from *Stagecoach*, the Western that propelled John Wayne to stardom **Information:** 405-478-2250 or FAX 405-478-4714

Now through Oct., **Gunfighters, Outlaws & Lawmen of the Old West:** San Antonio, TX. Gunfighter memorabilia and photographs from *True West* publisher Robert G. McCubbin's collection **Information:** 210-247-4000; FAX 210-247-4020 or www.buckhornmuseum.com

Now through Dec., **Irons From The Fire:** Lubbock, TX. Stories from ranches established in the mid-1800s in this exhibit of over 100 branding irons **Information:** 806-742-0498 or www.ttu.edu/RanchingHeritageCenter

MAY

9-10, **Grass Valley Old West Antique Show:** Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA. Select dealers feature museum-quality antiques. **Information:** 530-272-3243 or 714-771-8490

13-17, **Best of the West Fine Art Show and Sale:** Pinetop, AZ. Diamond West Gallery and Hon-Dah Resort present Western and Native American art. **Information:** 800-573-4031 or www.diamondwestgallery.com

17-18, **Windows on History:** Truckee, CA.The streets of Truckee roll back to the 1800s to portray the events that shaped the 140-year-old town and helped settle the West. **Information:** 530-587-2757

16 through Oct. 6, **Colt: The Legacy of a Legend:** Cody, WY This Buffalo Bill Historical Center exhibit explores the history and artistry of the world's most famous firearms. **Information:** 307-587-4771 or www.bbhc.org

15-18, **Miles City Bucking Horse Sale:** Miles City, MT. Livestock sale, bronc riding, horse racing, dancing, barbecues and Western art. **Information:** 406-665-1671 or www.custer.visitmt.com

23-26, **Old West Days:** Jackson Hole, WY Celebrate Old West Days this Memorial Day weekend. Call us for a schedule of events and to order your commemorative poster **Information:** 307-733-3316 or www.jacksonholechamber.com

24-26, **Wyatt Earp Days:** Tombstone, AZ. Activities include gunfights, a chili cook-off, hangings and an 1880s fashion show. **Information:** 520-457-3197

JUNE

10-14, **WritingtheWest:** Western State College, Gunnison, CO. Four days of accredited classes geared to anyone who loves the Western genre. Keynote speaker is John Murray, who authored *Mythmakers of the American West.* **Information and Registration:** 303-753-6353 or www.westernwriters.com

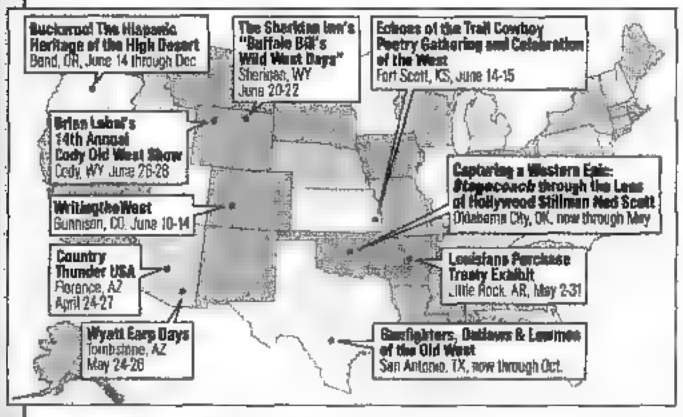
14 through Dec., **Buckaroo! The Hispanic Heritage of the High Desert:** High Desert Museum, near Bend, OR. Explore the culture of Hispanic vaqueros and their influence on life and work at High Desert cattle ranches. **Information:** 541-382-4754 or www.highdesertmuseum.org

18-22, **Little Big Horn Days:** Hardin, MT Five days centered around a Custer's Last Stand Reenactment. Includes bull riding, art auction, specialty foods and more. **Information:** 406-665-1671, 888-450-3577 or www.custer.visitmt.com

25, **"Peace Through Unity" Indian Memorial Dedication:** Little Bighorn Battlefield, MT. Memorial for Indians who fought on either side in the Battle of the Little Bighorn **Information:** 406-665-1671 or www.custer.visitmt.com

25-29, **15th Annual Lewis & Clark Festival, "The Great Acquisition":** Great Falls, MT. Activities include re-enactors, exhibits, walks, seminars, float trips and more. **Information:** 406-452-5661

26-28, **Brian Lebel's 14th Annual Cody Old West Show and Auction.** Cody, WY. Premier cowboy collectibles, guns, art, Native American, furniture and more. **Information:** 307-587-9014 or codyoldwest.com


Buckaroo! The Hispanic Heritage of the High Desert
Bend, OR, June 14 through Dec
The Sheridan Inn's "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Days"
Sheridan, WY
June 20-22
Echoes of the Trail Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Celebration of the West
Fort Scott, KS, June 14-15
Brian Lebel's 14th Annual Cody Old West Show
Cody, WY June 26-28
Capturing a Western Epic: Stagecoach through the Lens of Hollywood Stillman Ned Scott
Oklahoma City, OK, now through May
WritingtheWest
Gunnison, CO, June 10-14
Country Thunder USA
Florence, AZ
April 24-27
Louisiana Purchase Treaty Exhibit
Little Rock, AR, May 2-31
Wyatt Earp Days
Tombstone, AZ
May 24-26
Gunfighters, Outlaws & Lawmen of the Old West
San Antonio, TX, now through Oct.

Submissions to Western Roundup are welcome. Please send all information and photos at least three months in advance to Western Roundup, P.O. Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327, info@truewestmagazine.com or fax it to 480-575-1903.

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BY ROSEMARY McKITTRICK

Taos Society of Artists

Vintage paintings of a mystical place and its natives.

In 1898, Bert G. Phillips, founder of the Taos art colony, and fellow artist Ernest L. Blumenschein arrived in the Taos area by accident when the wheel on their covered wagon broke in the hills above the village. Phillips waited with the wagon while Blumenschein strapped the busted wheel on one of their horses and headed for Taos.

"No artist had ever recorded the New Mexico I was now seeing," Blumenschein said. "No writer had ever written down the smell of this air or the feel of this morning's sky."

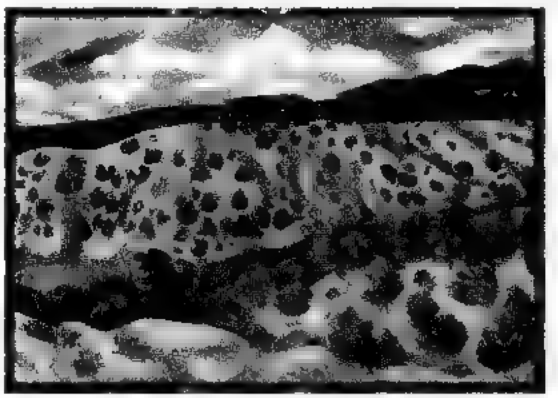
Phillips never left the area and Blumenschein returned every summer until finally settling in Taos some 20 years later. From the beginning, Phillips tried to persuade other artists to come. There was a lifetime of work waiting. Little by little they came, some just for the summers, others permanently. What these artists shared was a connection to a mystical setting and its native people.

On November 9, 2002, the Santa Fe Art auction was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, sponsored by the Gerald Peters Gallery. The sale included the following vintage paintings from the Taos Society of Artists and totaled $1,969,690.

NOTABLE TAOS SOCIETY OF ARTISTS LOTS INCLUDED

(ALL PAINTINGS COURTESY OF THE SANTA FE ART AUCTION)

Lyda Dunham Fabian;* Pueblo of Taos New Mexico; *oil on canvas; signed; 22¼ by 28¼ inches; $1,800.



Andrew Dasburg;* Pinons; *oil on canvas; c. 1933; signed; 16 by 22¼ inches; $35,100.

Bert G. Phillips;* Springtime in Taos Pueblo; *oil on canvas; signed; 13¼ by 30¼ inches; $22,230.

Gene Kloss; Summer Evening in New Mexico; *aquatint with etching on paper; 1941; signed; 9 by 13 inches; $5,100.*

Joseph H. Sharp; Aspens-Taos Canyon Near the Divide; *oil on canvas; 1939; signed; 25¼ by 30¼ inches; $40,950.*

Oscar E. Berninghaus; Home From the Hunt; *oil on panel; 1920; 20 by 16 inches; $66,125.*

E. Irving Couse; Moonlight Resting; *oil on board; signed and titled; 16 by 12 inches; $58,500.*

E. Irving Couse; Indian by Fireside; *oil on board; signed; 8¾ by 11¼ inches; $43,875.*

Upcoming Auctions

May 13
Sporting Guns
Christie's London
www.christies.com

May 22
Photographs
Sotheby's London
www.sothebys.com

May 23
Antique Arms & Firearms
Christie's London
www.christies.com

BY CRAIG HAMILTON

Cowboy Medicine

It gives a whole new meaning to being tough.

I named my black ranch horse Economy because he darn sure didn't waste any gas. Raised on the Diamond Bar Ranch owned by our neighbor Dale Smith, Economy was the most worthless piece of meat wrapped up in horse hide I ever saw.

When a horse gets to kicking, you'd better stand clear.

–TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

The only things this horse had going for him were he went all day (if you had the stamina to keep pedaling him along) and he wouldn't buck (too danged lazy).

Since I was the youngest puncher on the place, he ended up in my string. There haven't been many horses in my life that I just flat hated, but this guy was one of 'em.

Economy's habits gave me fits. Almost every time I went to remove his bridle, he'd catch it in his teeth and take off for the horse pasture, then spit it out about a hundred yards away. After a long day's work, the last thing I enjoyed was walking down to pick up my bridle.

One day I was unsaddling him in the barn when he pulled this little stunt. Seeing as how I was doubly cursed with ignorance and a short fuse, I slapped him on the butt.

Next thing I know, I'm flying backwards through the air and slamming into the barn's hitching pole hard enough to knock me plum silly.

With both hind hooves, that beggar had kicked me right in the privates.

I remember sucking wind and squalling like he had killed me. My Dad ran in the barn and found me rolling around on the ground. By then, blood had soaked through the front of my pants. When he saw that, he yanked my drawers down and I saw blood everywhere.

Now, I darn well knew I was dying.

Thirty minutes later though, I was alive enough to walk into the hospital's emergency room.

In our town, we had someone as rare as a working cowboy in this day and age—a true to life country doctor, Doc Arnold, who I am sure was a cow boss in an earlier life.

Doc took Dad and me into a side room and asked, "What's the problem?" Dad said, "Well, Doc, a horse kicked him in the nuts, but he's pretty tough." Doc responded, "If he is going to go around getting kicked in the nuts by a horse, he had dang sure better be. Drop your drawers son." So, I did.

That was my first good look, and it was obvious where all the blood had come from: one shoe had scraped across my skin and taken the hide off as clean as if I'd been hit with a horseshoe rasp.

I remember thinking the Doc looked like an axe-toting farmer about to separate a turkey's head from its body. He must have felt I was ready to make a break for it because quick as a snake, he reached out with a thumb and forefinger and grabbed the end of my poor little friend. That put the whoa to any thoughts of me splitting the scene. With a can of iodine spray in his other hand, he started painting my privates bright red while saying, "That ought to cure ya, cowboy!"

HOLY MOSES! Did he light my fire. I was doing the dyin' chicken. I would rather have been amputated, it burned so bad. Even though it happened over 25 years ago, it still stings me just writin' about it.

I don't remember whatever happened to that worthless horse, but I can tell you one thing. If I ever get kicked like that again, and I can reach a pistol, I am going to shoot myself.

My Dad was right about me being tough, but I ain't near tough enough for another dose of that brand of cowboy doctoring.

Craig

Visit craighamiltonhorsemanship.com.

"When in doubt, let your horse figure it out."

- Old Vaquero saying

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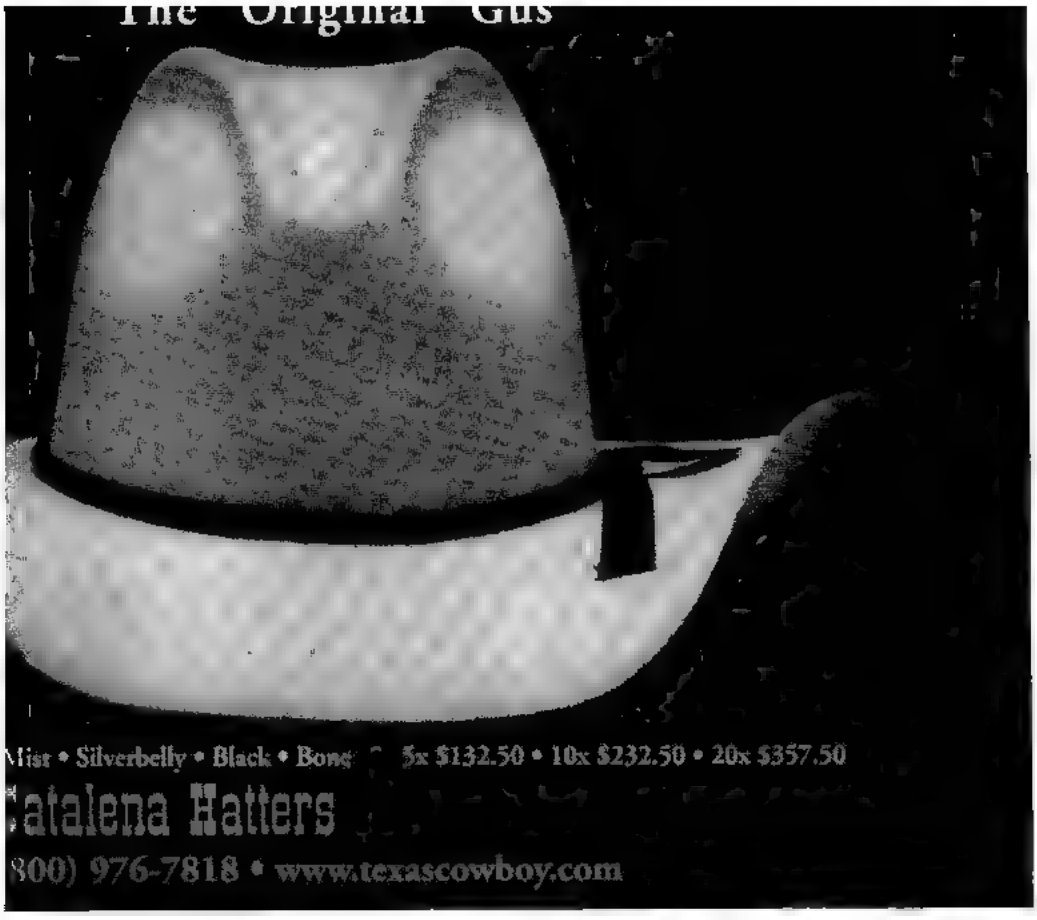
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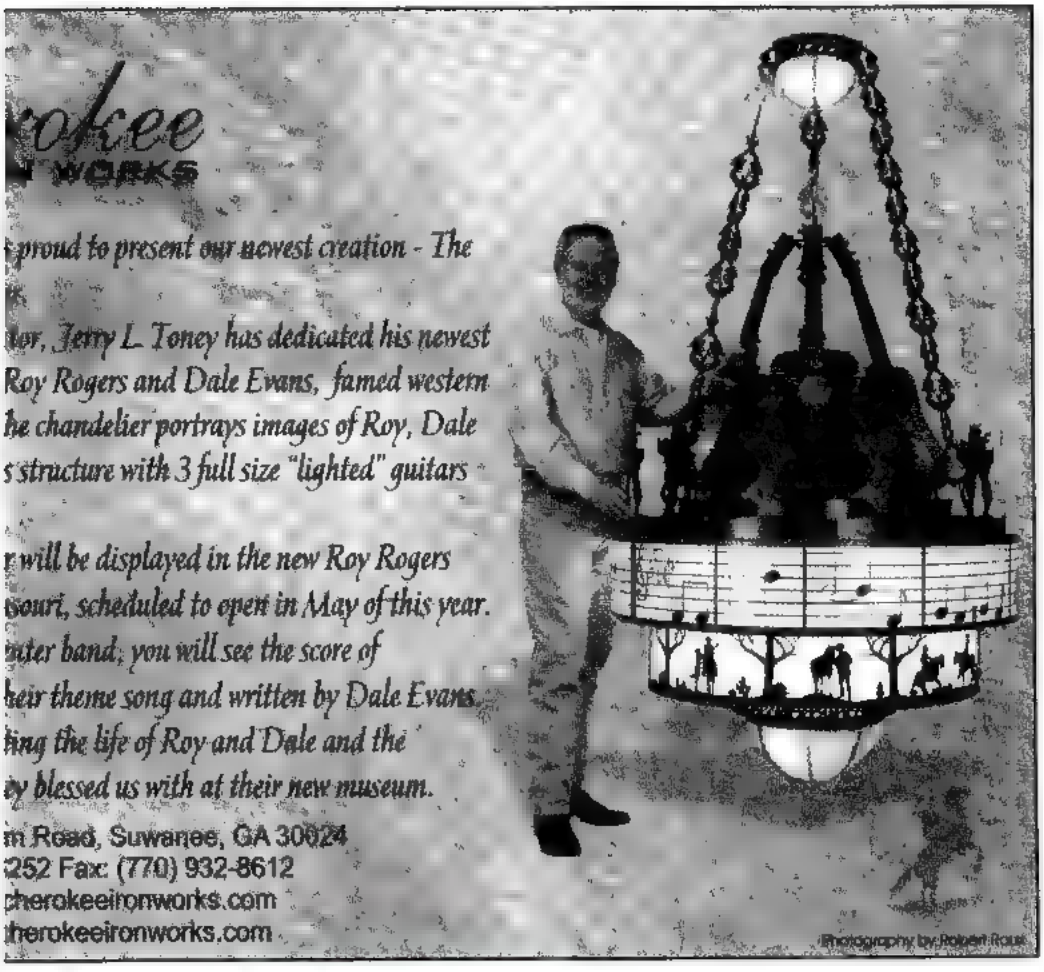
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Photography by Robert Rous

The Warrior Who Killed Custer

In the last seconds of his life on June 25, 1876, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer tried to bite off the nose of the man who was killing him.

Custer put up a brave fight, right to the end, which made the kill all the more heroic for the 26-year-old Sioux (Dakota) warrior who was the nephew of Sitting Bull.

This story of those last moments wasn't publicly told until 81 years after the rash young commander and over 200 of his calvarymen were wiped out in the infamous Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The man who told it was the only one who could have possibly known: Joseph White Bull, who detailed how he had been the one who killed "Long Hair." Some believe he was right; others say that although he fought at Little Bighorn, there's no evidence any of the soldiers he killed included Custer.

Is Lt. Col. Custer Long Hair? (c. March 1876 photo by Jose M. Mora).

Joseph White Bull as a young warrior.

– All photos True West Archives unless otherwise noted –

But here's how he told it: "I charged in. A tall, well-built soldier with yellow hair and mustache saw me coming and tried to bluff me, aiming his rifle at me without shooting. I dodged it. We grabbed each other and wrestled there in the dust and smoke. It was like fighting in fog. This soldier was very strong and brave. He tried to wrench my rifle from me. I lashed him across the face with my quirt [riding whip], striking the coup [the warrior scored honor points by touching his enemy]. He let go, then grabbed my gun with both hands until I struck him again.

"But the tall soldier fought hard. He was desperate. He hit me with his fist on the jaw and shoulders, then grabbed my long braids with both hands, pulled my face close and tried to bite my nose off. I yelled for help: 'hey, hey, come over and help me!' I thought that soldier would kill me."

Those astonishing words first appeared in a 1957 article in *American Heritage Magazine*. The story was written by historian Stanley Vestal, who had published a biography on Sitting Bull in 1932 and then a biography on White Bull two years later. Vestal, whose real name was Walter Stanley Campbell, said he omitted the explosive information about Custer from White Bull's biography to protect the aging Indian, who by then was a chief. But by 1957, White Bull had been dead a decade and Vestal himself would die later that year. In one of the final articles the esteemed historian wrote, Vestal said he was coming clean with information he'd kept secret all those years.

White Bull told the story himself in a "ledger book" he produced in the early 1930s for North Dakota Congressman Usher Burdick. The document is now a treasure of the Special Collections section at the University of North Dakota library.

BUILDING THE AMERICAN WEST

February 8, 1861
After 11 states secede from the Union and establish the Confederate States of America, former U.S. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis is elected the first president.

April 12, 1861
Confederates fire on Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War.

July 2, 1861
Ellen Liddy Watson (later known as Cattle Kate) is born in Canada.

Cattle Kate.

July 15, 1861
Wild Bill Hickok is charged for the murder of David McCanles. Claiming self-defense, Hickok is acquitted.

October 24, 1861
The nation's first transcontinental telegraph line is completed. The Pony Express ends two days later.

1862
The remaining Sioux (Dakota) Indians are driven from Minnesota, following their defeat at the Battle of Woods Lake. Wild Bill Hickok becomes a Union spy.

January 10, 1862
Samuel Colt dies.

January 1, 1863
President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

January 29, 1863
California Union volunteers commanded by Col. Patrick Conner attack Shoshones near Southeastern Idaho's Bear River, killing 368 (more

J.L.G. Ferris' painting of the first thanksgiving.

than double the number of Indians killed at Sand Creek or Wounded Knee).

October 3, 1863
President Lincoln proclaims the last Thursday in November to be a national holiday of Thanksgiving.

November 19, 1863
President Lincoln gives his "Gettysburg Address."

January 6, 1864
Army troops led by former mountain man Kit Carson route the

Four drawings from White Bull's "ledger book." In I, White Bull pursues a soldier who is attempting to wrestle the carbine from White Bull's grasp. Beneath them lies a soldier, which the text represents as being Custer "lying at the east end"; In II, White Bull charges at a trooper (supposedly Custer) firing at him with a carbine. White Bull is now carrying a stone-headed war club and his horse is decorated with a scalp hanging from its bridle. The text between the two combatants translates to, "This is Long Hair, the soldier" (note in the drawing, he has short hair); In III, White Bull counts coup on the fallen Custer, who is wounded in the groin; In IV, White Bull and Custer are wrestling to the death. The fallen soldier, with his carbine laying beside him, is said to represent Custer at the end of their struggle.

DRAWINGS COURTESY OF THE ELWYN B. ROBINSON DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, CHESTER FRITE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA.

White Bull's ledger book was part of the exhibition "Plains Indian Drawings, 1865-1935" that toured American and Canadian museums in the late 1990s, organized by the American Federation of Arts.

In his ledger book—named for the humble business ledgers that white traders gave to Indians to record their drawings and stories—White Bull includes four pictographs on Custer's demise as well as text written in the Teton Dakota language.

That text was first translated by Vestal, who kept references vague about the soldier White Bull had killed. Later, in Vestal's magazine story, the historian included a more complete description of the fight, based on interviews with White Bull.

"Bear Lice and Crow Boy heard me call and came running," White Bull's story continues. "These friends tried to hit the soldier. But we were whirling around, back and

1861-1880

Navajos from their Canyon de Chelly stronghold.

November 29-30, 1864
Cavalry troops under Col. John M. Chivington massacre over 150 Cheyenne Indians—two-thirds of them women and children—at Sand Creek in Southeastern Colorado.

March 1865
Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Company sells out to the Northwest Fur Company, essentially ending the fur trading era on the upper Missouri River.

Reward poster for Lincoln's assassin.

April 14, 1865
John Wilkes Booth shoots President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Lincoln dies the next morning.

May 5, 1865
In North Bend, Ohio, bandits derail a train, rifle the express car and rob the male passengers in the first recorded civilian train holdup in the U.S.

October 28, 1866
"Judge" Roy Bean marries Virginia Chavez in San Antonio, Texas.

December 21, 1866
Captain William J. Fetterman and his entire command are killed by Sioux warriors under Crazy Horse and Red Cloud.

Judge Roy Bean with the four children he had with his wife, Virginia.

February 1867
Harper's New Monthly Magazine carries a story inflaming the exploits of Wild Bill Hickok.

Sec. of state Seward.

March 30, 1867
Secretary of State William H. Seward formalizes the purchase of Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million. A skeptical public terms the sale "Seward's Folly."

1868
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

The Warrior Who Killed Custer

White Bull being interviewed by George Bird Grinnell (center) and William Rowland.

forth, so that most of their blows hit me. They knocked me dizzy. I yelled as loud as I could to scare my enemy, but he would not let go. Finally I broke free.

"He drew his pistol. I wrenched it out of his hand and struck him with it three or four times on the head, knocked him over, shot him in the head, and fired at his heart. I took his pistol and cartridge belt. Hawk-Stays-Up struck second [coup] on his body.

"Ho hechetu! That was a fight, a hard fight. But it was a glorious battle. I enjoyed it. I was picking up head-feathers right and left that day."

White Bull said at that moment, he didn't know who he had just killed, but a relative who knew Custer by sight identified the body.

In his ledger book, White Bull refers to Custer as "Long Hair" (Custer's nickname, even though he'd cut his hair before the battle) and writes: "Long Hair charged the camp and there was a lot of confusion and gunfire. Many Dakotas were killed as a result of this first charge and this made them mad. We counterattacked. We fought with them and I was in the first assault wave. My friend, maybe you can tell me how many of them we killed. Maybe you can tell me how many Dakotas were killed. . . . Long Hair came charging in but I pulled him off his horse. He was lying at the east end. At first they ran, but I chased them. That's when I did it, while the excitement was going on. It was wonderful. I was twenty-six years old at the time. My horse was a fast one. It was a great fight."

Returning to the fight, White Bull adds, "He stood pointing his carbine at me and I was afraid but I charged him and ran him down. He fired at me but missed. It was lucky for me. This was a hard fight, the hardest I ever fought, but finally I overpowered him. I have had this in my memory for a long time. Now I have shown it to you, friend. Many of the Dakotas and the white men saw me do this and know me, my friend."

In a third pictorial that he identifies as referring to Long Hair, White Bull shows himself "counting coup" on the soldier, writing, "This deed was seen by others who will vouch for me and verify that I am telling the truth, my friend."

And in the fourth picture, he says, "I grabbed him and killed him. I counted first coup. He hit me with his fists and hurt me and then he grabbed my braids. I grabbed his carbine and killed him with it. I was scared but I finally succeeded. The soldier was Long Hair."

In 1960, late historian James H. Howard headed the translation of White Bull's ledger book under a grant from the University of North Dakota. It resulted in Howard's book, *Lakota Warrior.* Howard would later write that he came away believing White Bull was "our most likely candidate" as the warrior who killed Custer.

Others aren't convinced, believing it is just the word of one Indian and his biographer. And even though White Bull specifically identifies "Long Hair" in four drawings, some insist he was actually talking about four different soldiers and didn't really differentiate between Custer and his men.

Custer expert Paul Hutton says, "It's such a great story, but I don't believe it. White Bull is very reliable but he never said he killed Custer. It's Stanley Vestal who claimed White Bull killed Custer and he [Vestal] never let a good story go."

What is not in dispute is that Joseph White Bull was an acclaimed warrior.

He was born in 1849 in the Black Hills, the son of Miniconjou Chief Makes Room and Good Feather Woman. She was a sister of the famous Hunkpapa Dakota medicine man, Sitting Bull. There was a younger brother named One Bull.

In a 1995 article in *American Indian Art Magazine,* authors Ray Miles and John R. Lovett wrote about the ledger book exhibit that was about to start its tour: "As historical documents, these drawings depict a critical period in Lakota history. White Bull's first drawings show him attacking both settlers and soldiers along the Bozeman Trail. The traffic along this trail disrupted the buffalo on prime hunting grounds, which in turn threatened the very basis of Lakota life."

They note that White Bull participated in the four best-known

BUILDING THE AMERICAN WEST

puts the cost of the Indian Wars at $1 million for every Indian killed.

May 10, 1869
Crews from the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad Companies complete the transcontinental railway at Promontory, Utah.

August 30, 1869
John Wesley Powell completes his epic voyage through the Grand Canyon.

April 30, 1871
Angered by continual Apache raids, 148 Papago Indians, Mexicans and Tucson, Arizona, whites attack 500 peaceful Apaches at Camp Grant (Arizona), killing and mutilating upwards of 150 men, women and children.

October 8-11, 1871
Fire rages in Chicago, eventually destroying over 3.6 square miles, killing upwards of 250 people and leaving about 100,000 homeless. Fire may have been started by O'Leary's cow.

Chicago, after the fire.

1872
Yellowstone becomes the nation's first national park. John Henry "Doc" Holliday graduates from a Baltimore, Maryland, dental school. Buffalo Bill gives his first performance on stage in "The Scouts of the Prairie," a Ned Buntline drama.

May 1, 1873
U.S. Post Office issues the first postcard, which costs a penny.

September 1873
Financial panic sweeps the New York Stock Exchange. During the subsequent five-year economic downturn, over 5,000 businesses fail.

July 20, 1874
Army command authorizes Gen. Philip Sheridan to pursue hostile Indians unconditionally, officially beginning the Red River War.

1876
H.J. Heinz Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, introduces its new tomato "ketchup." The telephone is patented.

Hickok's grave.

ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

On the 25th anniversary of the battle, Cheyenne Chief Two Moon visited Custer's Hill. During the battle, he was one of a number of Indians who carried a repeating rifle.

military engagements of the entire period: the Fetterman Fight (December 1866), the Wagon Box Fight (August 1867) and the two big battles of June 1876: the Battle of the Rosebud and the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

"All of these encounters were part of the larger struggle to keep white intruders off Lakota land," they wrote. "In addition, several of White Bull's drawings depict events of intertribal warfare and raiding against the Crow, Flathead and Assiniboin."

Joseph White Bull became famous long before anyone considered he could be the warrior who killed Custer. In fact, the issue hadn't even been raised when the nation was first attracted to him and his history, during the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1926.

White Bull.

Vestal had yet to show up at his front door, wanting hours of interviews. No biography had yet been written. North Dakota's congressman hadn't come forward, offering a $50 check for White Bull to produce his ledger book—a check that was never cashed. Until that ceremony, White Bull was just another of the Indians who had been relegated to the reservation after the Dakota wars.

rior led

So you have to wonder how he felt that day. Did his secret about Custer at that moment make him walk taller, stride more forcefully?

Perhaps, because Chief Joseph White Bull was the one chosen as the "Representative of the Red Race" who led Indian warriors onto the battlefield for the Golden Anniversary ceremony.

127 YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER...

A "Peace Through Unity" Indian memorial will be dedicated this summer as Montana commemorates the 127th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

It's one of a wide variety of events planned in Southeastern Montana around the site of the infamous battle that saw the demise of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the Seventh Cavalry.

The peace memorial, authorized by Congress, recognizes the Indians who fought on either side to preserve their land and culture. It will be unveiled on June 25, exactly 127 years to the date of the start of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

OTHER NOTED EVENTS INCLUDE:

- The "Miles City Bucking Horse Sale," May 15-18, where 300 head of livestock, 100 riders, over 80 rodeo stock contractors and 8,000 spectators are expected in the town known as the "Cowboy Capital of Montana." The weekend includes bronc riding, dancing, barbecues and an art auction.
- "Little Big Horn Days" in Hardin, Montana, June 18-22. The highlight will be the annual Custer's Last Stand Reenactment, June 20-22, involving more than 300 re-enactors, production crew and horses. The weekend also includes bull riding, parades, carnival, quilt show, street dances and art auction.
- The Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen (the only town within the battlefield) is a permanent display that houses extensive exhibits of battlefield and Plains Indian artifacts. A 45-minute documentary film is shown hourly in a new theater that gives logistical battle bearings to visitors before they visit the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. The museum is open daily, except holidays.

For more information, call 800-346-1876 or go to www.custer visitmt.com.

1861-1880

Ed Schieffelin.

June 25, 1876
Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his entire command are killed by the Sioux at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

August 2, 1876
Jack McCall murders Wild Bill Hickok in Deadwood's 10 Saloon.

September 7, 1876
The James-Younger botches the holdup of the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota.

May 5, 1877
Sitting Bull and his band of Hunkpapa Dakotas cross the border into Canada.

August 1, 1877
Ed Schieffelin records his Arizona silver claim, naming it "Tombstone."

February 18, 1878
In Lincoln County, New Mexico, England-born rancher John Tunstall is murdered, precipitating the Lincoln County War.

October 15, 1878
Thomas A. Edison founds the Edison Electric Light Company, a forerunner of today's General Electric Company.

March 4, 1879
New Mexico governor Lew Wallace, the author of *Ben Hur*, places Billy the Kid (listed as Kid Antrim) on a list of wanted men.

Billy the Kid

November 1, 1880
Virgil Earp becomes the Tombstone assistant town marshal.

November 2, 1880
Pat Garrett is elected sheriff of Lincoln County, New Mexico.

December 1880
Billy the Kid escapes capture by Pat Garrett and his posse before finally being arrested by Deputy Sheriff Stinking Springs east of Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

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From steamboats to McCormick's Reaper, from South Pass to the Chisholm Trail, the inventions and discoveries that opened the American West.

California gold miners at work, c. 1850s.

– Matthew R. Isenburg Collection; all other images True West Archives

From natural wonders to urban blights, from science to geography, the American West has long been a place of discovery. It still is. Ask any vacationer at a Scottsdale art gallery or any hiker at Zion National Park.

The most important Western discovery, of course, will always be water. Ask any Arizona rancher during a drought or any homeowner mowing the grass in Austin in late August.

To come up with my top 50 list—ranked from least to most important—I consulted *True West's* savvy, erudite and good-looking staff, not to mention novelist/historian Bruce H. Thorstad (who didn't start cussin' when I told him the pay), a bunch of history books and the Internet. Of course, some discoveries are still being debated, and let's face it: the first person to see Yosemite was in all likelihood a nomad who crossed over from Siberia.

Therefore, the criteria for my top 50 has few boundaries, with good reason.

The West isn't about boundaries. It's about spirit. Always has been. I hope it always will be. Besides, the mythical line separating the frontier from civilization kept moving. Don't buy that? Try reading James Fenimore Cooper. That's why I've chosen not only discoveries made west of the Mississippi, but also inventions and improvements—scientific, geographic or just plain fun—that had an impact on Western migration or Western legend.

Johnny D. Boggs' greatest Western discoveries are Bob's Chop House in Dallas, Texas, the Shiloh Saloon in Medicine Bow, Wyoming, and a black bear and two cubs swimming an Alberta, Canada, river in 1990

50. Atom Bomb

OK, it's the Nuclear Age, not the Old West, but it has Western origins, was created by scientists working in a secret town north of Santa Fe (pssst, Los Alamos) and was first detonated in the White Sands of New Mexico. I figured I'd start this list off with a bang. Besides, the world sure seemed a lot safer when the biggest discovery was...

49. Smokeless Powder

A slew of French chemists with names like Braconnot, Dumas and Pelouze started tinkering around with nitric acid and organic substances as early as 1832. By 1894, with the success of the .30-40 Krag-Jorgensen rifle, the U.S. military made smokeless powder the principal small arms propellant and the days of black powder and white smoke were history.

48. de la Peña Diary

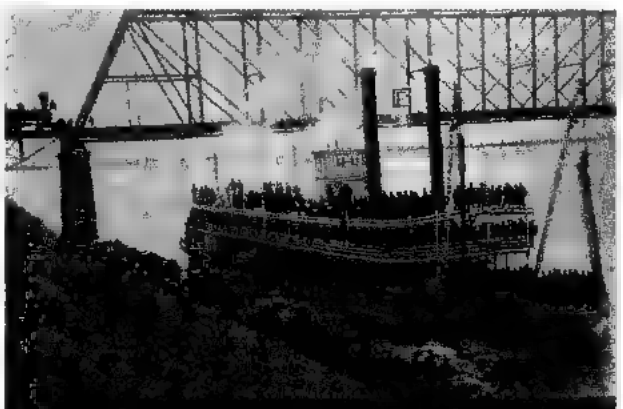
This one's still smoking. The little diary of Lt. Col. José Enrique de la Peña raises a ruckus more than 25 years after it was first translated into English and more than 166 years—sorry, Bill Groneman and other fighters for Davy's rep—since de la Peña recorded that the gallant Col. Crockett of Tennessee surrendered, was executed and didn't die fighting at the Alamo.

47. Mesa Verde

Who discovered one of America's premier archaeological finds is uncertain. It could have been Franciscan friars in the 1700s, Ute Indians or, as legend has it, Mancos Valley cowboys. More likely though, it was a prospector who told photographer William Henry Jackson about Mesa Verde. Jackson photographed the Colorado cliff dwellings in 1874. But even the Indians who built the classic pueblos between A.D. 1000 and 1300 weren't the first to settle here.

46. Manifest Destiny

From sea-to-shining-sea began with the realization that Mexico's hold on Texas, California and indeed the entire Southwest was pretty weak. *Democratic Review* editor John L. O'Sullivan, calling for the annexation of Texas, used the phrase in 1845. It took off from there, with people flocking West by land and...



45 Steamboat

Robert Fulton may not have invented the steamboat (John Fitch made a run up the Delaware River in 1787), but Fulton proved steamboats were a commercial success when his *New Orleans*, co-designed with Robert R. Livingston, steamed along the Lower Mississippi in 1811. Fulton and Livingston's brother, Edward, began steamboat service from New Orleans to Natchez three years later. (Above is the steamer *Helena*, c. 1870s, at North Dakota's Bismarck Bridge—the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge.)

44. Golden, New Mexico

The first rush west of the Mississippi didn't begin with 49ers. Gold was found in the Cerrillos Hills in 1825, sending entrepreneurs to New Mexico. Another gold strike occurred in 1879, and the hills also produced copper, silver, coal, zinc and turquoise. Prospectors couldn't find much water, but in that rough country what they really needed were...

43. Levi's

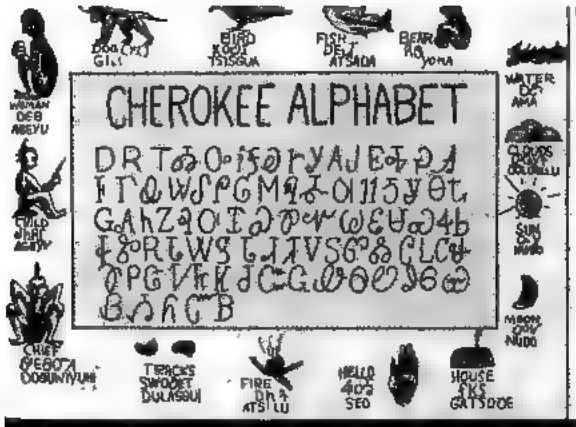
Sorry, Wrangler. When Levi Strauss arrived in San Francisco in 1853, he began producing canvas pants, switched to blue denim, added copper rivets and made a fortune at his factory on Battery Street. We're just glad he removed some of those rivets, which had a tendency to heat up and send many a miner howling after squatting too close to a campfire. Now, you need to tuck jeans into something, which brings us to . . .

42. Cowboy Boots

Joe Justin set up shop along the Chisholm Trail in Spanish Fort, Texas, and began supplying cowboys with durable, comfortable footwear. Up in Kansas, so did T.C. McInerney, Charles Hyer, John Cubine and William Bright. Who created the first true cowboy boot may still be debated, but today's artisans owe their soles to these guys.

41 Narrow Gauge Railroad

Colorado baron William Jackson Palmer's Denver & Rio Grande (from Durango to Silverton, completed in 1882; now called the Durango & Silverton) was the first narrow gauge line in the United States. (Above photo was taken near Rockwood, Colorado.) With rails only 36 inches apart (standard measurement is 56.5 inches), trains could better hug mountain curves and run a whole lot cheaper. In all honesty, though, I prefer HO Scale. Wanna come play with my Lionel train set?



40 Cherokee Syllabary

Sequoyah began trying to create a written language for his people as early as 1809. He perfected an 86-character syllabary (above) at his farm in present-day Pope County, Arkansas, in 1821. Endorsed by the Eastern Cherokees shortly thereafter, the syllabary was quickly accepted by all Cherokees, and the bilingual *Cherokee Phoenix* newspaper was printed in New Echota, Georgia, in 1828.

39. Conestoga Wagon

The "wagon of empire" dates to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, c. 1717, when these vehicles hauled furs to Philadelphia. Long and deep with slanted rear and front panels, the Conestoga reached its peak between 1820-50, bringing food, freight, furniture and dreams along the trails West.

38. Sharps Rifle

Christian Sharps patented a vertically sliding block design in September 1848, introducing the era of the breech-loading rifle. Albert Nippes of Mill Creek, Pennsylvania, produced more than 200 rifles by the following spring. The Sharps rifle became synonymous with Hiram Berdan's Union sharpshooters during the Civil War and, later, with buffalo hunters on the Western Plains.

36. Hawken Rifle

After plying their trade at Virginia armories, James Lakenan and Jacob Hawken went into business in St. Louis in 1818, producing sturdy .50 to .60 caliber mountain rifles. Samuel Hawken joined his brother's business after Lakenan died in 1825, making about 1,000 rifles before Jacob died in 1849. Hawken rifles dominated the West until breechloaders and repeaters made them obsolete.

35. Smokey Bear

"Remember: Only you. . . ." This badly burned brown bear cub was found clinging to a tree after a massive forest fire near Capitan, New Mexico, in 1950. After being nursed back to health, he became an American icon and a fixture at Washington's National Zoo, and did more than his share of promoting outdoor fire prevention before his death in 1976.

34. Mouth of the Columbia River

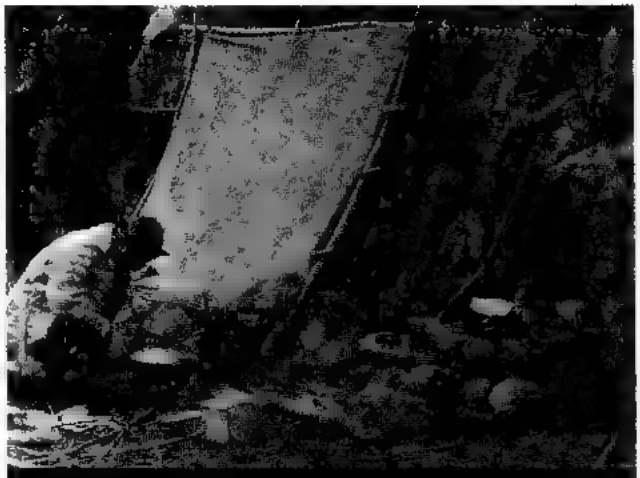
In May 1792, Captain Robert Gray of Boston found this "great river of the west" on his second trip to the Oregon coast. He named the river for his ship, *Columbia Rediviva*, not knowing his discovery gave the United States a solid claim on the Oregon Territory.

33. Santa Fe

Founded in 1610, the city of "holy faith" delighted Zebulon Pike when he and his men were "invited" there by Spanish authorities, after they strayed into New Mexico in 1807. Americans were officially welcomed after Mexico won independence in 1821 and Missouri trader William Becknell opened the Santa Fe Trail from Franklin, Missouri.

32. Henry Rifle

B. Tyler Henry got his patent from the government in 1860—and financial backing from a chap named O.F. Winchester—to produce a lever-action rifle that used metallic-cased rimfire cartridges. The rifle that you could load on Sunday and shoot all week long was the forerunner of the other guns that won the West: the Winchester '66, '73 and '94.



37 Klondike Gold

It has been called the last great adventure of the 19th century. The gold discovery in the Canadian Yukon created a frenzy in the United States, which was still reeling from the Panic of '93. The Rush of '98 attracted folks like writer Jack London and filmmaker Thomas Edison. Subsequent discoveries in Nome, Alaska, fueled the frenzy, and led to Johnny Horton's second-best song. (Above image is a rushers camp near the Dyea Trail in Alaska.)

31. Steam Locomotive

English engineer Thomas Savery patented the first steam engine in 1698, while George Stephenson created the first steam locomotive in 1814 . . . all of which led to even better Western things like the Pullman Sleeping Car (1857), transcontinental railroad (1869), the James-Younger Gang (1866-82), *Strangers on a Train* (1951) and *North by Northwest* (1959), two fine Hitchcock movies.

30. Boss of the Plains

Consumption sent John B. Stetson West in 1859 or 1860. Seeing the need for a durable, broad-brimmed hat, he returned to Philadelphia in 1865 and started designing, producing and selling his hats. When Stetson died in 1906, his company had grown from a one-man shop to a 3,500-employee institution that produced 2 million hats a year. Hey, imagine how ludicrous a silk top hat would have looked on...

29 John Wayne

When director Raoul Walsh saw USC jock/movie extra/stuntman Marion Michael Morrison's walk, he cast the obscure Iowan as the lead in his 1930 epic, *The Big Trail* (scene above shows young Wayne on right as a wagon train scout). Later, the rechristened John Wayne perfected that amble—think Bette Davis playing Wyatt Earp—and became synonymous with the Old West. But where would the Duke's 150 movies be without...

28. Los Angeles

Founded in 1781, the City of Angels was a planned city to help Spain secure a foothold in California. In 1844, it boasted a population of about 2,500 but began shrinking after the Mexican War. LA rebounded in the 1870s, and hasn't slowed down since—except on freeways during rush hour, which wouldn't be a problem if not for...

27. Oil

Before Edna Ferber's *Giant* and CBS's J.R. Ewing, there was Spindletop, Texas, 10:30 a.m., January 10, 1901, when the Lucas Gusher blew on Sour Springs Mound. The 75,000 to 100,000 barrel-a-day strike propelled America into the petroleum revolution.

26. Telegraph

"What hath God wrought?" was the telegraph sent on May 24, 1844, from Baltimore to Washington. Samuel F.B. Morse developed the telegraph wire and created his electronic alphabet, Morse Code. Both inventions paved the way for Western Union's transcontinental telegraph line in 1861—so long, Pony Express—the Postal Telegraph System in 1881 and the boom-chicka-boom sound of Johnny Cash in 1956.

25. St. Louis

I considered Las Vegas for this spot, but the idiot playing blackjack next to me hit on 18. Besides, with the exception of Boston, is there a better baseball town? New Orleans trader Pierre de Laclède Liguest established his post on the Mississippi River in 1764, and it soon became a key commercial and strategic port, but the city owes its thanks to the . . .

24. Source of the Mississippi River

David Thompson, a Canadian fur trader, explorer and North West Company cartographer, was called "Mister Astronomer Thompson" by his colleagues. Thompson traveled to the Mandan villages on the Missouri River in 1797-98, then surveyed the mighty Mississip's headwaters. Surprisingly, he didn't get much credit until the 20th century . . just another slight Canadians can pin on Americans.

23. Great Basin

Pathfinder John Fremont traveled through Eastern Nevada in 1843-44, where he discovered and named this peculiarity of nature—a vast area of interior drainage where rivers and streams find no outlet to the sea, and thus water collects in shallow salt lakes, marshes and mud flats, before it evaporates.

22 Chisholm Trail

Jesse Chisholm was no cattle baron, but the trail he blazed to trade with Indians, from present-day Wichita, Kansas, to the Red River, became a godsend for Texas cattle drovers after the Civil War. It became synonymous with trail towns such as Abilene, Ellsworth and Newton. Of course, cattle buyers may have remained in Sedalia, Missouri, if not for...

21. Texas Fever

Trails were pushed West by quarantines when local stock raisers found their cattle sick and dying after Texas herds passed through. Actually, the fever was first noticed in Pennsylvania in the late 1790s, but its impact was most dramatically felt in Missouri and Kansas. The cause, a pesky little tick called Margaropus annulatus, wasn't discovered until 1889. Immunization didn't come about until 10 years later.

20. Horses

Europeans may have known about them, but the Indians didn't. The introduction of horses to America's Western tribes led to an Indian renaissance. Mounted warriors gained greater mobility and honed horse theft to a fine art.

19. Buffalo Hides

Two Pennsylvania tanners experimented with the hides and discovered they could make excellent leather despite the robe's thickness. When they offered John Wesley Mooar $3.50 a hide and asked for 2,000 of them, the slaughter was on.

LICENSED TO UNICORN

18 The Homestead Act

President Lincoln helped open the West, or rather run the West, on May 27, 1862, when he signed this act into law. Any citizen, or intended citizen, could gain title to 160 acres for a small fee and five years' sweat, tears and blood. Not an easy task. (Above, an 1894 Oklahoma homestead.)

17. Great Salt Lake

Did Jim Bridger find this Utah landmark in 1824? Or should French-Canadian Etienne Provost or former Danish sea captain John H. Weber get the glory? And what of Peter Skene Ogden's trappers? Bowing to the will of the majority (historians), let's say Bridger took his "bull boat voyage" down the Bear River from Idaho and was the first white man to lay eyes on the Great Salt Lake.

16. Comstock Lode

The West truly became industrial in 1859 when Pat McLaughlin and Peter O'Reilly hit paydirt in Nevada's Six-Mile Canyon. Only another miner, Henry Comstock, stumbled on their claim and said it was his. McLaughlin and O'Reilly believed him. The great silver strike brought some 17,000 people, including Mark Twain, to the Sierra Nevada. Twain, the first great Western writer, found an even bigger audience near the...

14. Percussion Cap

The flintlock era ended with the 1814 invention by Englishman Joshua Shaw, who kept his copper percussion cap a secret until he landed in America. Shaw obtained patents in 1822, for small arms percussion cap and lock, and in 1828, for cannon percussion locks and wafer primers, all the while fending off disputes and claims from other inventors. His cap led to the...

13. Colt revolver

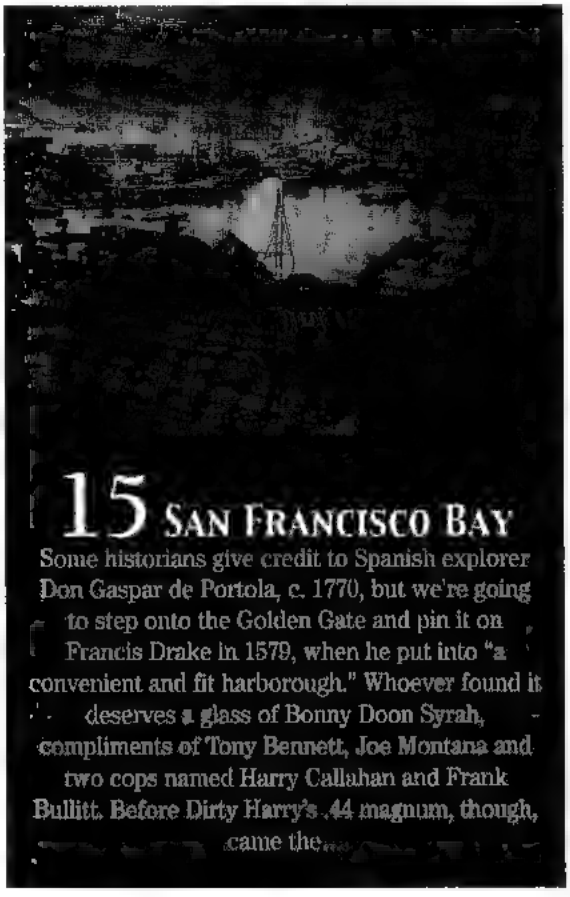
Samuel Colt patented his revolving mechanism in 1836 and began producing the Paterson Colt in Paterson, New Jersey. Poor sales forced the plant to close, but former Texas Ranger Samuel Walker realized Colt was on to something, met with the gunmaker, improved the design and helped Colt secure a government contract during the Mexican War. Civilians saw a need for an affordable handgun on their Western travels, and an American legend was born. Many carried Colts on the way to...

12. Colorado Gold

It's often overshadowed by the Comstock strike, but the Pike's Peak rush of 1859 sent almost 100,000 restless Americans to Colorado, making it second only to the California gold rush. William G. Russell found placer gold on the South Platte in July 1858, triggering the rush West. Hello, Denver. Goodbye, Cheyenne and Arapaho.

11. South Pass

Lewis and Clark couldn't find a practical overland route to the Pacific, but the discovery of South Pass in Wyoming proved that such a path did exist. The only problem was that Robert Stuart and his Astorians, who found the pass in October 1812, didn't remember its exact location. Jedediah Smith solved the problem in 1824 with his rediscovery.



15 San Francisco Bay

Some historians give credit to Spanish explorer Don Gaspar de Portola, c. 1770, but we're going to step onto the Golden Gate and pin it on Francis Drake in 1579, when he put into "a convenient and fit harborough." Whoever found it deserves a glass of Bonny Doon Syrah, compliments of Tony Bennett, Joe Montana and two cops named Harry Callahan and Frank Bullitt. Before Dirty Harry's .44 magnum, though, came the...

10. McCormick's Reaper

Cyrus Hall McCormick's "revolutionary reaper" scared the wheat out of horses in its 1831 debut, but by 1848 he had moved his factory from Virginia to Chicago. In two years, the reaper was a success, and in 1851 it was on display at the first world's fair in London. Of course, before you reap, you must sow, which is why it doesn't beat out the...

9. Steel-Bladed Plow

John Deere's 1837 invention of the self-scouring plow in Grand Detour, Illinois, made large-scale farming on the prairie possible. "The whistling plow" turned the Illinois tallgrass prairie into farmland. It also made many mules mule-headed and taught scores of farm boys language their mothers frowned upon. But farmers may have stayed in the East if not for the...

ELLOWSTONE

olter thought he had
l into Hell when he saw
melling, bubbling sulfur
geysers in 1807. Colter's
s actually a Wyoming
, (above, Yellowstone
Photographer William
Jackson and painter
mas Moran were
tone's best PR agents,
its 2,221,773 acres to
ur first national park in
mountain men may not
lored the Rockies were
it not for...

8. Cumberland Gap

Thomas Walker traveled through this deep pass on the Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee border on April 13, 1750. He wasn't the first white man to see it, but he named it, and 20 years later it was the West's Gateway on the Wilderness Road, with some 300,000 settlers crossing through it between 1775 and 1800, leading to the discovery of...

6. Beaver Pelts

Much credit for the West's early exploration goes to Castor canadensis Kuhl, a big-toothed creature that sent men West in the name of fashion. With felt hats the rage, trappers took an estimated 100,000-150,000 beaver a year for almost 50 years before protesting beavers finally won over hat wearers around 1840 with their slogan: Wear More Silk! Beavers were big, but not as big as the...

5. Grand Canyon

In 1540, Don García López de Cárdenas became the first European to view the giant ditch carved by the Colorado River. Another explorer, Father Francisco Garcés, descended into the canyon at the invitation of the Havasupai Indians in 1776, but it was John Wesley Powell who made the Grand Canyon an American icon after his explorations in the late 1860s and early 1870s. It's bigger for tourists, but not history, than the...

3. Barbed Wire

Wire fences were undoubtedly strung up on Western farms, watering holes and pastures long before 1874, but give Joseph F. Glidden his due. The De Kalb, Illinois, farmer improved on Henry M. Rose's invention and began mass producing the wire that won the West. Of course, anyone who has ever gotten hung up in "bob wire" while hunting knows Glidden's invention is really "the Devil's rope." Speak of the devil...

2. Georgia Gold

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4 Black Hills

The Verendrye brothers explored these South Dakota slopes in 1743, and Plains Indians cherished the dark ridges the Sioux called *Paha Sapa*. History was set in motion when George Custer's military expedition found gold in the hills in 1874 (see above photo). That led to the end of the Treaty of 1868, the founding of Deadwood, Custer's defeat at Little Bighorn, the killing of Wild Bill Hickok, etc. The Sioux are still fighting for the return of the land, much of which is now enclosed by...

"Man's mind, stretched by a new idea, never goes back to its original dimensions."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

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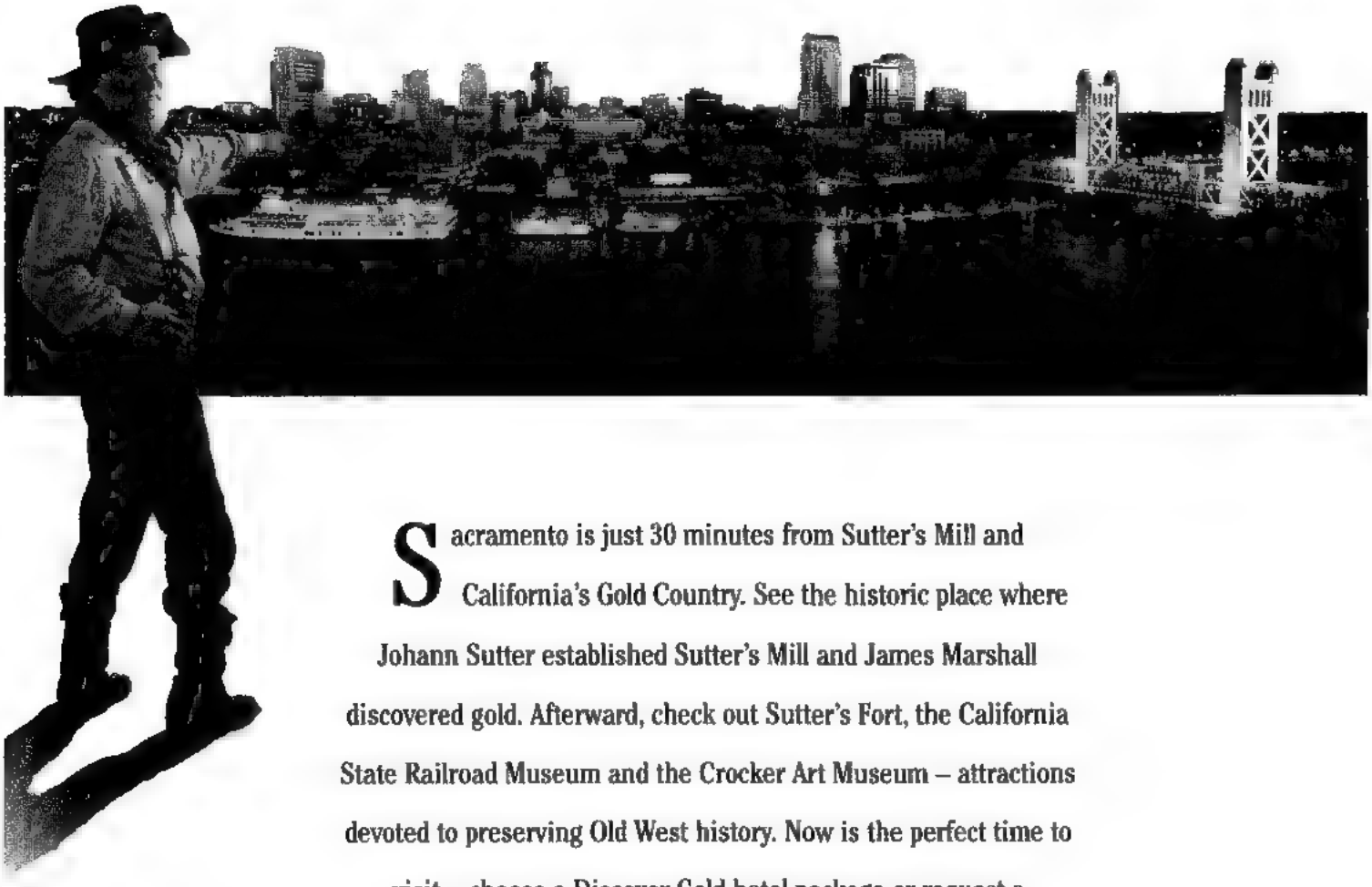

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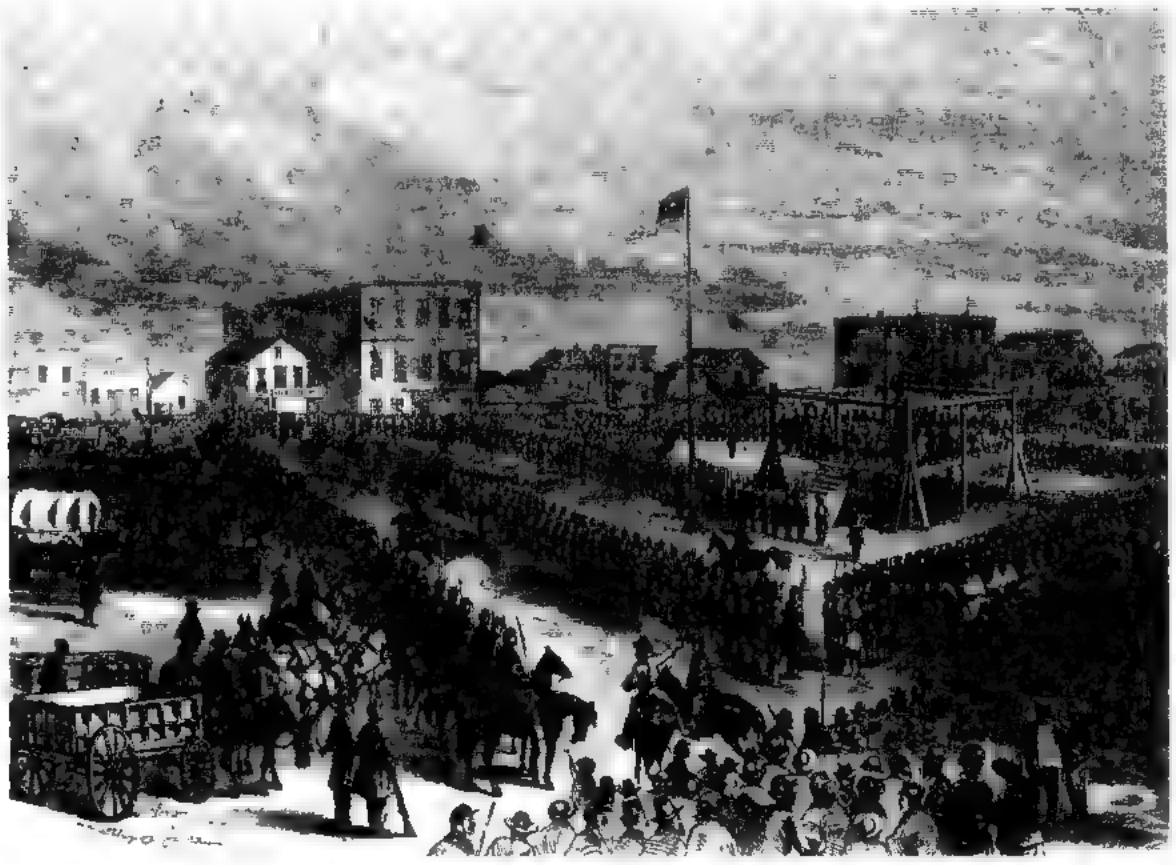
BY LARRY H. JOHNS

"If they're hungry, let them eat grass"

The inside story behind America's greatest mass hanging.



***America's largest mass hanging occurred on December 26, 1862, in Mankato, Minnesota. Witnessed by soldiers and civilians alike, 38 Sioux were sentenced to execution by President Lincoln and hanged around the square-shaped scaffold. This drawing by W. H. Childs was published on January 24, 1863, in* Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.**

COURTESY MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When you think of the savagery of the Old West, Minnesota doesn't leap to mind. Montana, yes; South Dakota, yes; Arizona, yes, but not a Midwestern state that sits on the eastern edge of the West.

Yet, Minnesota played a pivotal role in the bloody conflict between whites and Indians that spanned nearly three decades: it was here that the first great Plains Indian war began; that one of the most notorious Indian uprisings took hundreds of lives, and where America saw its "greatest mass execution."

The state was only four years old—most of its young men were off fighting the Civil War—when it was thrust into a second "war within a war in its own backyard," one that catapulted Minnesota into what became known as the "Great Sioux Uprising of 1862."

This event launched a series of Indian wars on the Northern Plains that didn't end until the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890. But Minnesota is where it started.

And hunger began it.

Near Starvation

The crops had failed in 1861 and that winter had been one of near starvation for the Sioux who had sold 24 million acres of rich agricultural land and now lived on reservations, existing on the annuity payments for their property, which totaled some $3 million. But the 1862 payments that normally came in late June and early July didn't arrive. By mid-August, Indians began showing up at agency headquarters, demanding food from the warehouses, which they would pay for once their checks came.

Some agency officials gave them food; others were stingy. Storekeeper Andrew J. Myrick callously

Andrew Myrick.

– All Photos True West Archives unless otherwise noted –

remarked, "If they're hungry, let them eat grass." He would die for those words.

But it was a trivial egg-stealing incident that mushroomed into war: six weeks of bloody, brutal fighting that took the lives of at least 450 white settlers and soldiers—and maybe as many as 800—and a couple of dozen Indian warriors.

Chicken Eggs

As Chief Big Eagle told it, hunting had been unproductive for four weary and hungry Sioux warriors one hot August morning when they chanced upon a nest of chicken eggs near a farmhouse. One warrior took the eggs despite his companions' warning that stealing from the whites would cause trouble. Dashing the eggs to the ground in anger, he shouted, "You are afraid of the white man, you are afraid to take eggs from him even though you are starving."

According to Big Eagle, a companion angrily replied, "I am not afraid of the white man and to show I am not, I will go to his house and shoot him. Are you brave enough to go with me?" The others agreed to accompany him to the nearby homestead of Robinson Jones in Acton Township. Cunningly, they challenged Jones and his neighbors, Howard Baker and Veronius Webster, to test their marksmanship. A target was placed on a tree and the Indians and whites emptied their rifles at the mark. The Indians immediately reloaded, but the white men neglected to take that precaution. Suddenly, the Sioux turned on the settlers and brutally shot down Webster, Baker, Jones and his wife and Clara Wilson, their adopted daughter.

The four culprits, later identified by Big Eagle as Brown Wing, Killing Ghost, Breaking Up and Runs Against Something While Crawling, stole several horses and fled to their Rice Creek village on the Minnesota River. It was obvious to everyone that this was a bad situation—white women had been killed, which surely meant retaliation and possibly no more annuity checks.

The Great Sioux Uprising of 1862

Some chiefs immediately wanted to go to war; others urged caution, but all agreed only Little Crow had the ability and prestige to lead a successful attack.

Riders summoned Chiefs Mankato, Wabasha, Traveling Hail and Big Eagle to the home of Little Crow. As related by Big Eagle, Little Crow told the council, "Braves, you are like little children: you know not what you do. You are full of the white man's devil water, you are like dogs in the hot moon that snap at their own shadows. We are like little herds of buffalo; the great herds are no more. The whites are as many as the locusts. Kill one or ten whites and ten times ten will come to kill you. Count your fingers all day long and the whites with guns will come faster than you can count." Little Crow's admonitions—which history would prove to be prophetic—went unheeded so he reluctantly agreed to lead the uprising.

The carnage began immediately. Small bands of Indians swooped down on unsuspecting homesteaders. The men were quickly gunned down and axed by the warriors while the women and children were assaulted and either killed or taken captive. After plundering the homes and barns, the Indians burned the farms and fields.

Encouraged by their early successes and the whites' feeble response, the Indians turned their attentions to the settlements. Anticipating an easy victory, several hundred armed and painted Indians surrounded Lower Agency. The unarmed whites were quickly overwhelmed.

Andrew Myrick was among the first to die. He was found near his home, his mouth stuffed with grass.

The Sioux swept through the Minnesota Valley in an orgy of killing, raping, looting and burning. The whites who survived told of the bone-chilling war hoops that accompanied unmerciful attacks on loved ones. Panicked homesteaders fled to the larger settlements for safety, often relying on the walls of brick buildings to survive. One hotel, the two-story Dacotah House "was so crowded, the women had to remove their hoop skirts."

One hero, a Christian Indian named John Other Day, led 62 whites across the river to safety. In retaliation, the Indians burned his farm and destroyed his crops. After the uprising, a grateful government awarded him $2,500 for his bravery.

Colonel Henry Sibley.

The last significant battle occurred on September 23 when Col. Henry Sibley, who commanded a force of 1,619 men, faced off against 1,000 Indians. Sibley's command camped at Battle Lake near present-day Echo. That night, the Sioux stealthily approached. At dawn, the raiders attacked in a fan-shaped formation, yet Capt. Mark Hendrick's howitzers "mowed down the Indians like grass."

It was a decisive victory for Col. Sibley. In a letter to his wife, he stated the Indians "received a severe blow and will not be able to make another stand." His assumption was correct. There would be no more organized

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warfare by the Sioux in Minnesota. Now, the troops could concentrate on release of the captives and capture of the troublemakers.

Sibley was concerned Little Crow would kill all the hostages and indeed, the Sioux chief wanted to do just that. Fortunately, by this time, Little Crow's influence had waned and the Indians refused to carry out his wishes. Chiefs Wabasha and Taopi were desperately trying to end the hostilities and Little Paul, a highly respected Sioux orator, spoke strongly in favor of ending the warfare and releasing the prisoners. As a result, Wabasha sent Joseph Campbell, a mixed-blood (people of mixed Indian and white ancestry), to let Sibley know the captives were safe and the soldiers could come for them.

Military Trial—"A Travesty of Justice"

The captives were held at a camp near the mouth of the Chippewa River near Montevideo. It quickly became known as Camp Release. Sibley, with an escort of troops, entered the Indian Camp, "with drums beating and colors flying." An eyewitness wrote, "The poor creatures, half starved and nearly naked, wept with joy at their release." The rescued numbered 269—mostly women and children—the men having been killed.

Sibley sent most of the rescued to Fort Ridgely; orphaned children were sent to settlements near their homes and most were adopted by relatives. Some women remained at Camp Release to testify at the trials of the Indians.

Nearly 2,000 Sioux were taken into custody and trials began almost immediately. A five-man military commission, headed by Col. William Crooks, prepared to try the accused.

Joseph Godfrey, a mixed-blood, greatly aided the prosecution. Godfrey was the first person tried and sentenced to hang, but his sentence was reduced to 10 years imprisonment when he agreed to testify. Intelligent and articulate, he helped convict many Indians. (Godfrey was released after three years and farmed peacefully near Niobrara, Nebraska, until his death in 1909.)

Urged to hurry, the commission settled as many as 40 cases each day, some lasting just five minutes. "Reading the records today buttresses the impression that the trials were a travesty of justice," writes Kenneth Carley in his 1976 account of the uprising for the Minnesota Historical Society. "It is true that those in charge had to resist public pressure to do away with all the Indians, guilty and innocent alike, and it must also be pointed out that the trials were conducted by a military commission and not by a court of law. Nevertheless, many of the proceedings were too hasty and quite a number of prisoners were condemned on flimsy evidence."

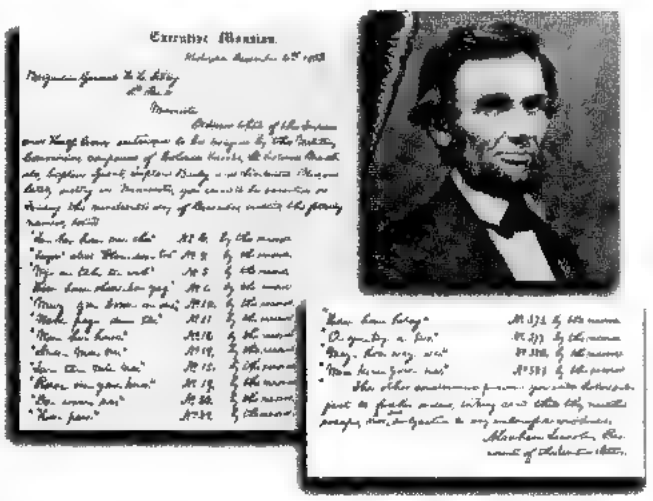
On November 5, the commission finished its work. Of 392 Indians tried, 307 were sentenced to hang and 16 were given prison terms. Col. Sibley approved all but one death sentence—the exception being the brother of John Other Day.

Most of the Indians were naive and couldn't understand why they were being punished for honorable warfare. Many offered ridiculous extenuating circumstances. Some admitted firing only one or two shots, but argued they never hit anyone because they were such poor shots and their guns were inaccurate. Others claimed to be eating corn during the battles, while some had bellyaches and weren't able to join the fighting. One admitted stealing a horse, "but it was a very small one."

President Lincoln Names the Condemned

Sibley wanted to execute the condemned at once but was unsure of his authority. Therefore, on November 7, he forwarded a list of the condemned and complete records of their convictions to President Lincoln. The president received many appeals from the press, Minnesota Governor Ramsey and others urging immediate execution. Episcopalian Bishop Henry Whipple was one of the few who urged clemency: "This affair must not be settled with passion, but by calm thought."

Lincoln heeded the advice of those seeking mercy and on December 6, 1862, commuted the death sentences of all but 39 warriors who had been convicted of wanton murder and rape. The president's



President Lincoln (above, c. 1861) wrote out the 39 Sioux to be hanged on executive mansion stationery. (One Indian was later granted a reprieve.) The first and last page of the three-page executive order are shown above.

decision—he hand-wrote every name on Executive Mansion stationery—was unpopular with most Minnesotans. (One man on the list would later get a reprieve, leaving 38 to die.)

The condemned were held at Camp Lincoln but when enraged citizens threatened "frontier justice," the Indians were moved to a more secure jail in Mankato to await execution on December 26.

On Christmas Day, families of the 38 were allowed a last visit. Most of the Indians were resigned to their fate. Rdainyanka, son-in-law of Chief Wabasha and a

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Shown here in 1858, Little Crow, the Sioux leader in the uprising, was picking berries near Hutchinson, Minnesota, when he was killed by Nathan and Chauncey Lamson in 1863.

leader in the uprising, eloquently wrote his father-in-law, "I am set apart for execution and will die in a few days. My wife and children are dear to me. Let them not grieve for me. Let them remember that the brave should be prepared to meet death and I will do as becomes a Dakota."

At dawn on December 26, the 38 began chanting their death songs. Their chains were removed and their arms were bound with ropes. At 10 a.m., they were taken from the prison to the huge wooden scaffold. Martial law had been declared and 1,400 soldiers surrounded the condemned. Thousands of civilians thronged the area to watch the proceedings. To a slow, measured drumbeat, the Sioux climbed the stairs of the scaffold. At the end of the third drum roll, William Duley, an uprising survivor, stepped forward and cut the rope to release the traps. As the 38 dropped to their deaths, there was a prolonged cheer from the soldiers and citizens. This would become known as "America's greatest mass execution."

Sioux War Aftermath

Little Crow, leader of the uprising, was conspicuously absent from the trials and punishment. When the fighting ended, he had fled to Canada. In June 1863, accompanied by 16 warriors, Little Crow returned to Minnesota to steal horses. It would be his last foray. Several whites were killed at this time and Little Crow's band was assumed responsible. On July 3, the chief and his son Wowinapa were ambushed near Hutchinson by Nathan and Chauncey Lamson. Little Crow was killed and taken to Hutchinson where he was scalped, mutilated and buried in a pile of offal. In 1971, he received a more dignified burial when his remains were interred at Flandrau in a quiet ceremony. Little Crow's grandson, 88-year-old Jesse Wakeman, said, "We decided Ta-O-Ya-Te-Dutah [Little Crow] should be buried among his own with only his own on hand."

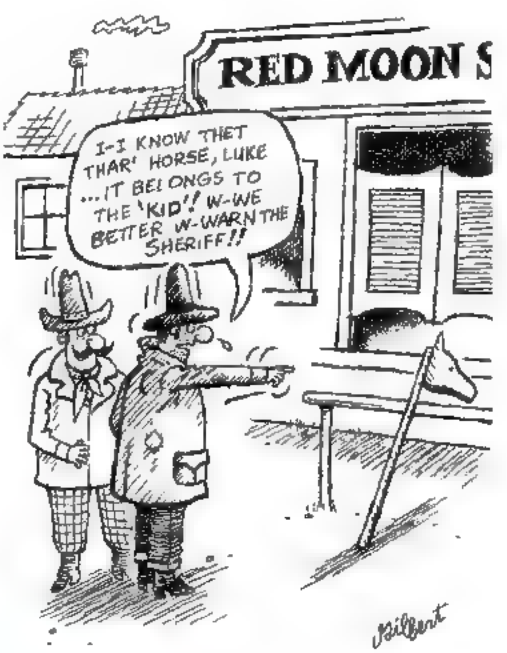
The executions weren't the end of the Sioux Wars. Minnesotans retaliated against all Indians, whether they'd been involved in the uprising or not. "The Sioux Indians of Minnesota must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the borders of the state," Governor Ramsey declared. He demanded, and Congress agreed, that the Indians' annuity money should be spent to compensate white victims of the uprising (even though some of the claims were so extravagant, they were outrageous).

The Minnesota government even persecuted a peaceful Winnebago tribe that had taken no part in the Sioux War. That the Winnebagos "lived on choice farm lands coveted by the whites raises a presumption that the settlers may well have been prompted by economic motives, coupled with fear and prejudice in wanting to get rid of the unfortunate Winnebago," Carley writes.

And of course, this was just the beginning of blood that would flow for decades.

As Carley reports, "The Minnesota Uprising of 1862 was still fresh in the nation's memory when it became aware of such Indian leaders as Red Cloud, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. Bloody battles at Fort Phil Kearny, the Little Bighorn, and, in 1890, Wounded Knee, brought to an end at last the generation of Indian warfare that had begun at Acton in August, 1862."

Larry H. Johns is a freelance writer who lives most of the year in Bloomington, Minnesota, but spends his winters in Arizona. He often writes about sports and logging and became fascinated by the 1862 uprising when he moved to Minnesota in 1965.



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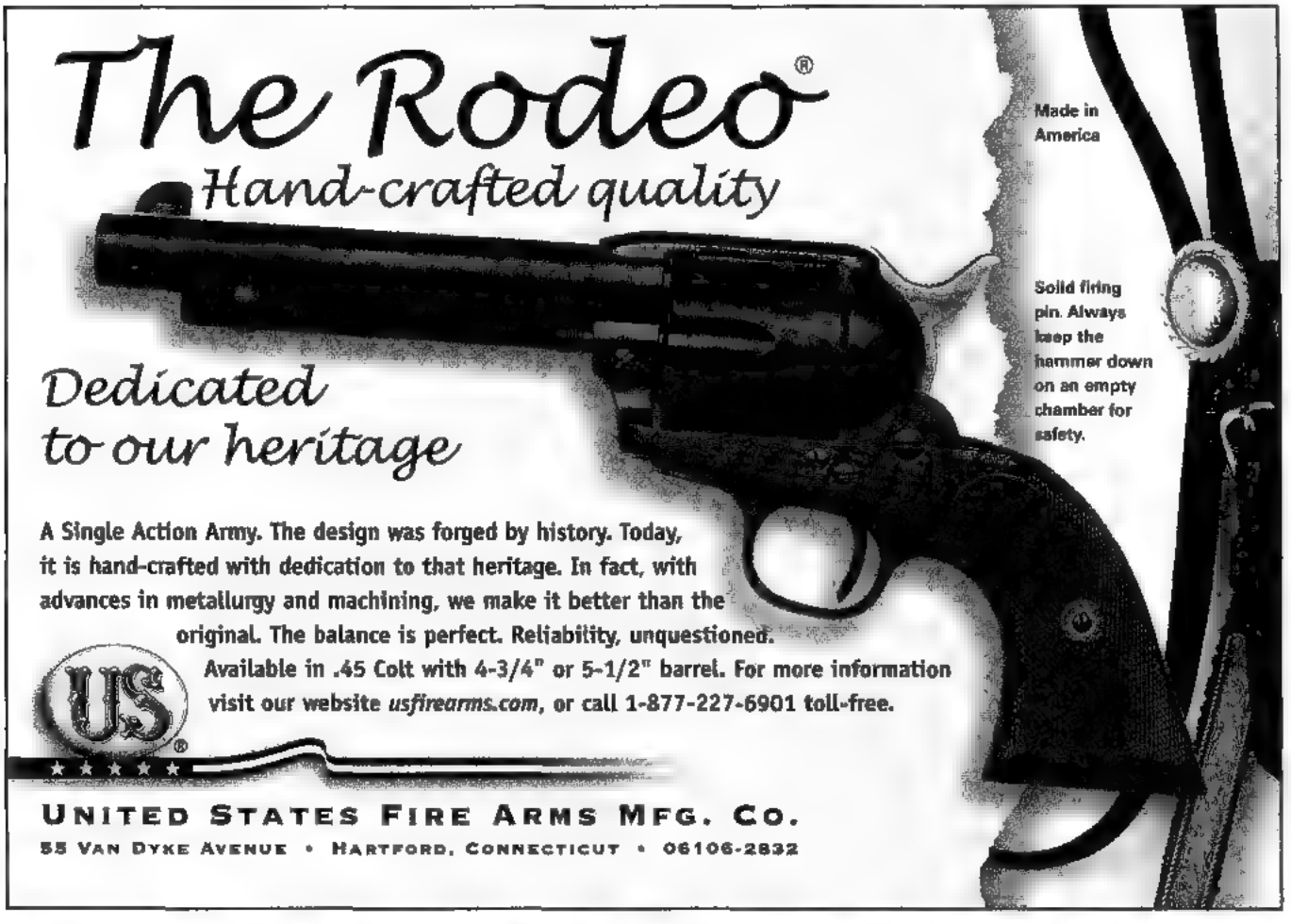

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MYTH HIDES UGLY TRUTH

BY BOB BOZE BELL

BASED ON THE RESEARCH OF JOSEPH ROSA

MAPS & GRAPHICS BY GUS WALKER

July 12, 1861

David McCanles, his son William and two employees ride up to Rock Creek Station, Nebraska Territory. Leaving his two hired hands at the barn, McCanles and his son go over to the main house and demand that the occupants clear out.

The Pony Express station keeper Horace Wellman tells McCanles he has no such authority (see "Deadly Deal" sidebar, opposite page). An argument ensues and a frightened Wellman retreats into the house while Jane, Wellman's common-law wife, stands outside the doorway and berates McCanles for thrashing her father earlier over an alleged theft.

James Hickok (not yet Wild Bill) appears in the doorway and is advised by McCanles to keep away.

A known bully, McCanles is usually armed with a pistol and shotgun (it is hotly debated whether he was so armed that day). To gain time, he asks Hickok for a drink of water. Hickok steps inside to get it. Moments later, a shot is fired from within the house and McCanles collapses.

James Woods and James Gordon, McCanles' two employees, rush up from the barn and are both shot, though not fatally. Jane Wellman takes a hoe—it is later claimed—and smashes Woods' skull, perhaps aided by her still-frightened husband. James Gordon manages to escape into the brush but his bloodhound follows him and his pursuers follow his blood and the dog. Gordon is easily found and killed with a shotgun blast, supposedly by James W. "Doc" Brink, a Pony Express rider.

McCanles' son William runs to his father's side but is driven away by Jane Wellman. The boy escapes into the brush and makes it to safety.

Odds & Ends

Three days later, Hickok, Horace Wellman and Doc Brink were arrested and charged with murder on warrants sworn out by the McCanles family. After a preliminary hearing, the defendants were discharged when the judge ruled they were defending company property at the time of the killings.

●

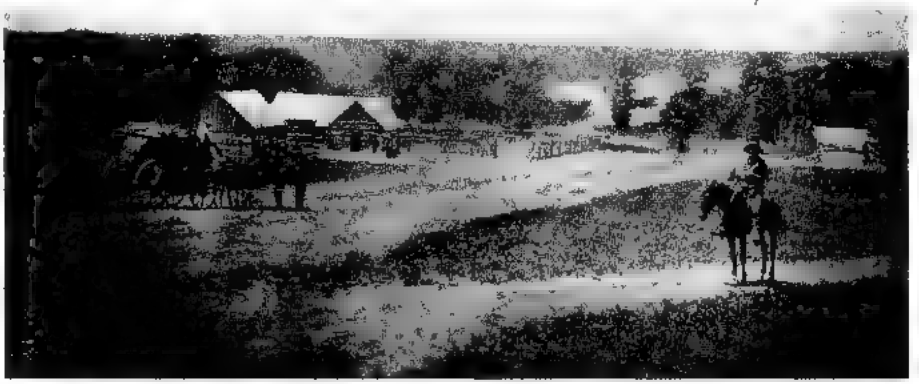
Seven years later, Col. George Ward Nichols wrote a fantasy account of the fight for *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. In this version, McCanles and his "gang of ten cuthroats" rushed the cabin where Hickok was holed up. Hickok managed to win a fierce hand-to-hand battle (see *Harper's* illustration, left) and killed all of his assailants. This fictional account inspired subsequent writers and enlarged the myth.

●

We recommend Joseph G. Rosa's *They Called Him Wild Bill*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1974. For a study of Sarah Shull, McCanles' mistress, an excellent source is Mark Dugan's *Tales Told Around The Campfire*, Swallow Press, 1987.

Rock Creek Station

A regular camping spot on the Oregon Trail, Rock Creek (previously known as Weyth Creek; see photo of Rock Creek Station at right, c. 1861) "cut and intersected with deep, irregular gorges and canyons, through which flow crystal streams, fed by the springs that issue from the walls of rock under the hills. Giant oaks, elms and cottonwoods studded the banks of these streams, and the little flats in the bends of its winding course, rank in growth or primitive grasses, with the hillsides surrounding clothed with the shorter grasses suitable for pasturage." So wrote Charles Dawson in 1912.



James Hickok (above) as he probably appeared at the time of the McCanles shoot-out. It is now known he was working for Jones & Cartwright (competitors of Russell, Majors & Waddell, owners of the Pony Express) until April 1861. He arrived at Rock Creek in late April or early May, and Wellman probably employed him as a stock tender. Hickok was attracted to McCanles' mistress, Sarah Shull (see her and her quote, right), and this no doubt contributed to the friction between him and McCanles.

The Deadly Deal of David McCanles

Fleeing North Carolina in 1859 with Sarah Shull, his mistress, and misappropriated county funds, ex-sheriff David McCanles (below, right) settled at Rock Creek, Nebraska Territory. He bought a small overland station and corral and improved them. He later built a ranch close by and sent for his family. Consequently his wife and kids showed up to find Sarah (described as a domestic in census returns), which made Mrs. McCanles furious. But she put up with the presence of the mistress—barely

In April 1860, Russell, Majors & Waddell organized the Pony Express and rented Rock Creek as a relay station. Later, the company negotiated a sale—one-third down, the remainder in monthly installments spread over three months to be paid to McCanles. Horace Wellman was appointed stationkeeper in May. By June, however, McCanles was concerned about delinquent payments and persuaded Wellman to go to company headquarters and investigate. Accompanying Wellman was McCanles' 12-year-old son William. Wellman returned on July 11 and reported the company was bankrupt.

The next day, an upset McCanles rides over to Rock Creek to evict the tenants. He is unsuccessful.

"I came close to having an affair with Hickok."
—Sarah Shull

BY MEGHAN SAAR

Re-enactors Bring Realism to Movies

Gods and Generals, Vengeance Trail.

Stephen Lang as Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson addressing his troops (above, left). Much of* Gods and Generals *focuses on the role religion played in Jackson's personal life and on the battlefield.

Re-enactors brought their own weapons and costumes to film scenes such as this one at the Battle of Chancellorsville (above, right).

– Courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures –

GODS AND GENERALS

More than 7,500 re-enactors brought the Civil War to life in *Gods and Generals*, released on February 21, 2003. Director, producer and film writer Ron Maxwell stressed that if there were no re-enactors, there would have been no movie.

"The reenactors are not just people filling out the background of a scene; not only do they look right in terms of their costumes and their weaponry, but they project the right attitude. I can include them in big close-ups and it looks realistic, because they're into the moment the way an actor is into the moment."

The filmmakers recruited thousands of volunteers across the United States, ranging from the 5th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Company H to the 124th New York Regiment—the "Orange Blossoms"—and Company A 1st (West) Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

The re-enactors supplied their own weapons and costumes and added their own historical expertise to the film. When screening for core group members, Dana Heim, the film's re-enactor coordinator, explained members were chosen based on their looks in costume and their knowledge of the Civil War.

There were approximately 220 re-enactors in the core group, while 33 participated in the entire movie due to "their versatility with their impressions, plus artillery and cavalry experience," Heim added.

In exchange for the volunteers' participation, filmmakers donated a half million dollars to the Center for Civil War Living History in Virginia.

And *Gods and Generals* is living history.

The women on the home front are based on historical journals. Jane Beale (played by Mia Dillow) lived in Fredericksburg, Virginia, during the war and wrote "...experience teaches that those who suffer the tyranny of unjust warfare, learn to cling with a devotion to their principles that they would never have felt under milder influences and our Southern people will not be apt to form the first exception to this general rule." Hers and other women's stories live on in their words.

Mia Dillow (middle) as Jane Beale, whose family was caught in the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg, and Donzaleigh Abernathy, who plays the family servant.

– Courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

Maxwell says that the film places the characters into the

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context of their time. Speaking of the African Americans during the Civil War who stayed with the Confederate Army, he explains, "there's conflicting loyalties there's a loyalty to one's people, a people that was held in bondage, and there's also a loyalty to place. There's a loyalty to neighbor, and there was a loyalty to whites that the blacks were living with."

Bo Brinkman (left) as Maj. Taylor and Robert Duvall as Gen. Robert E. Lee.

COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES –

Historians may argue that slaves had no choice in their loyalty, but even so, Maxwell's characters are enlivened by the historical research that went into the movie's production

The film was screened for accuracy by historical consultants Ed Bearss (winner of the Harry S. Truman Award and the Nevins Freeman Award for Civil War scholarship), Gabor S. Boritt (professor of Civil War Studies and director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College) and John D. Bert (military advisor).

James I. Robertson, author of *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend*, endorsed the film, saying it is the first time Jackson has been realistically portrayed in film.

A three-year prequel to *Gettysburg*, also a Ron Maxwell film, *Gods and Generals* covers the first battle of Manassas and the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, recounting the fights from the point of view of individual participants.

Robert Duvall plays Gen. Robert E. Lee, Stephen Lang plays Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, Jeff Daniels reprises his Col. Lawrence Chamberlain role from *Gettysburg*, Mira Sorvino plays Fanny Chamberlain and Kali Rocha plays Anna Jackson.

VENGEANCE TRAIL

Al Frisch and Kevin Empey of Copper Button Entertainment have long known the film value of Old West re-enactors. As longtime SASS members themselves, the two independent filmmakers recruited members of both SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) and CMSA (Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association) to bring their first production, *Vengeance Trail*, to life.

And do these folks know their guns.

Frisch's gun collection was acquired from Stembridge Guns Rentals, a Hollywood prop rental shop where Frisch worked before it closed in 1971

Gettysburg—140th Anniversary Celebration

The Gettysburg re-enactment's 140th anniversary on July 4-6 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, has been hyped as the decade's largest Civil War re-enactment. The event has live mortar fire competitions, presentations by CSA and US Generals in living history tents, a period wedding and of course, battles. Actor Patrick Falci, who plays Gen. A.P. Hill in *Gettysburg* and was a historical consultant for *Gods and Generals*, will portray Gen. Hill in battle.

Visit www.gettysburgreenactment.com for more information.

Got stars in your eyes? Another chance for Civil War Re-enactors

Civil War re-enactors may have another opportunity for fame in *The Last Full Measure*, which spans July 1863-April 1865 and includes all the characters from the previous two movies, as well as Grant, Sheridan and Sherman. Ted Turner Pictures plans to film it this summer, depending on *Gods and Generals'* box office sales. Turner Pictures spent $53 million on *Gods and Generals*, well over what other big Civil War movies pulled in at the box office. *Gettysburg* earned only $10.8 million in theaters, whereas *Glory* (1989) won three Oscars and earned $26 million.

In *Vengeance Trail*, you'll see part of his extensive collection: John Wayne's "Greeners" from *Big Jake*, Steve McQueen's Winchester Model 1876 from *Tom Horn* (Bob Kentucky, playing hero Jim Dawson, uses this rifle in the film) and a Colt revolver used by John Wayne in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. (Gun expert and new *True West* field editor Phil Spangenberger demonstrates his gun-wielding talents when he handles this Colt during a stagecoach robbery scene.)

Phil Spangenberger is a founding member of CMSA, holding badge #6, and assisted cast members in gun handling. (He also taught Mel Gibson in *Maverick*, Heath Ledger in *The Patriot* and Will Smith in *Wild, Wild West.*) Other CMSA members, Larry Brady and Jeff Wall, join Spangenberger in playing stagecoach robbers.

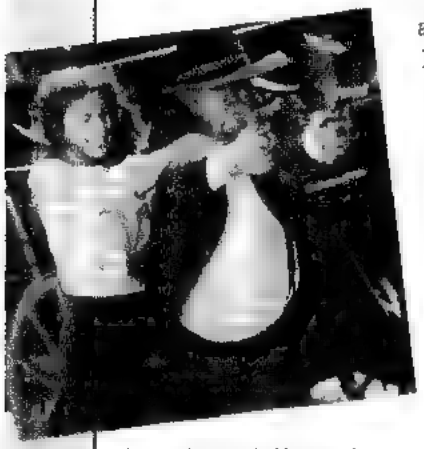
This stagecoach holdup will end in a bloody massacre.

COURTESY COPPER BUTTON ENTERTAINMENT –

Phil Spangenberger as a stagecoach robber shooting passengers with John Wayne's Liberty Valance *Colt.*

– Courtesy Copper Button Entertainment –

Vengeance Trail is a suspenseful Western set in 1880s Texas and tells the story of Annie, on the run from an abusive husband, who finds herself the sole survivor of a bloody, stagecoach robbery. She is rescued by a young cowboy, then abducted by a robber hired by her husband.



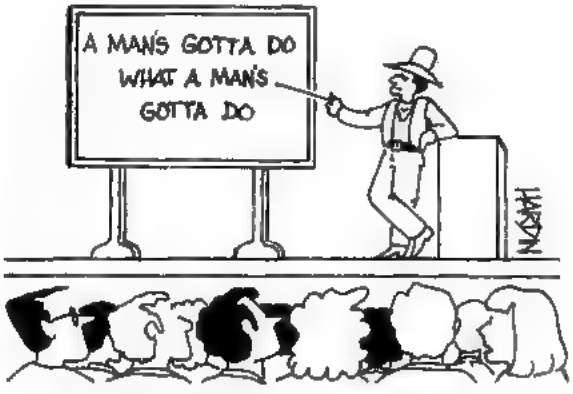
Annie (Stephanie Northrup) attacks her brutal husband, Bill McBride (Carl Walper, a SASS member).

– Courtesy Copper Button Entertainment –

It was filmed in Arizona and also in Southern California at Disney's Golden Oak Ranch, Melody Motion Picture Ranch and the Valuzat Brother's Haskel Canyon movie set.

Frisch's Placerita Canyon home, with its antique furniture and props, provided a backdrop for the hero's ranch house and a saloon scene.

Vengeance Trail is due out on DVD and video by April 2003, and Phil Spangenberger tells *True West* that the Western may air on cable.



"This isn't what I expected when I decided to study Western philosophy."

WESTERNS IN THE WORKS

Charley (Kevin Costner, left) and Boss (Robert Duvall) taking a break while their cattle graze in Open Range.

– Courtesy Touchstone Pictures –

Academy Award-winning director **Kevin Costner** *(Dances with Wolves)* brings us *Open Range*, to be released this summer by Touchstone Pictures. Boss Spearman **(Robert Duvall)**, Charley Waite (Kevin Costner), Mose Harrison **(Abraham Benrubi)** and "Button" **(Diego Luna)** graze cattle across Western prairies. But when their wayward herd forces them near Harmonville, they must contend with a corrupt sheriff **(James Russo)** and a kingpin rancher **(Michael Gambon)**. Boss and Charley are compelled to defend the cowboy code of honor in the inevitable showdown. As they prepare for battle, Charley meets warm-spirited Sue Barlow **(Annette Bening)** and is forced to conquer his own internal demons.

The Alamo is being filmed on the 836-acre ranch once owned by *True West* founder Joe Small (now deceased). Producer **Mark Johnson** *(My Dog Skip)* kept mum on the location, but we found out. Joe Small's widow, Elizabeth, tells us the Battle of San Jacinto will be filmed in view of her ranch house, which is 45 miles southeast of Austin, Texas. Due out in December, *The Alamo* stars **Billy Bob Thornton** as Davy Crockett, **Jason Patric** as Jim Bowie, **Emilio Echevarria** as Santa Anna, **Javier Bardem** as Juan Seguin, **Dennis Quaid** as Gen. Sam Houston and **Patrick Wilson** as Col. William B. Travis. The $100 million picture is being directed by **John Lee Hancock** *(The Rookie)* after **Ron Howard** bowed out. However, Howard's company is still producing the film.

TV Westerns In The Works

We'll see if *The Lone Ranger*, a hip TV-movie remake that aired in February 2003, will become a series on WB. **Nathaniel Arcand** plays Tonto, who is no longer one-dimensional and actually solves the crimes along with the Lone Ranger **(Chad Michael Murray)**.

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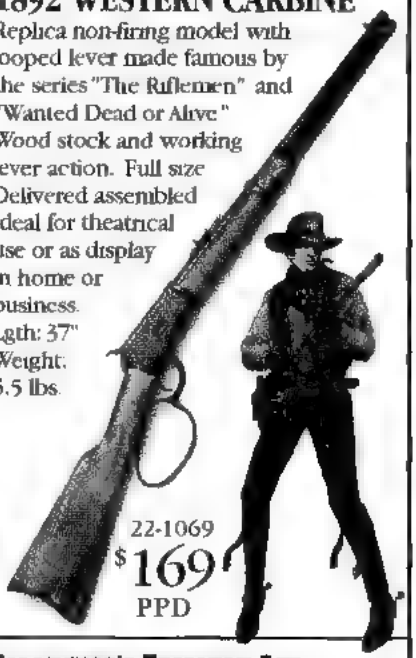

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— John Swenson, UPI

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BY R.G. ROBERTSON

Now You See Me, Now You Don't

The art of Bev Doolittle.

Bev Doolittle.

– ALL IMAGES COURTESY GREENWICH WORKSHOP –

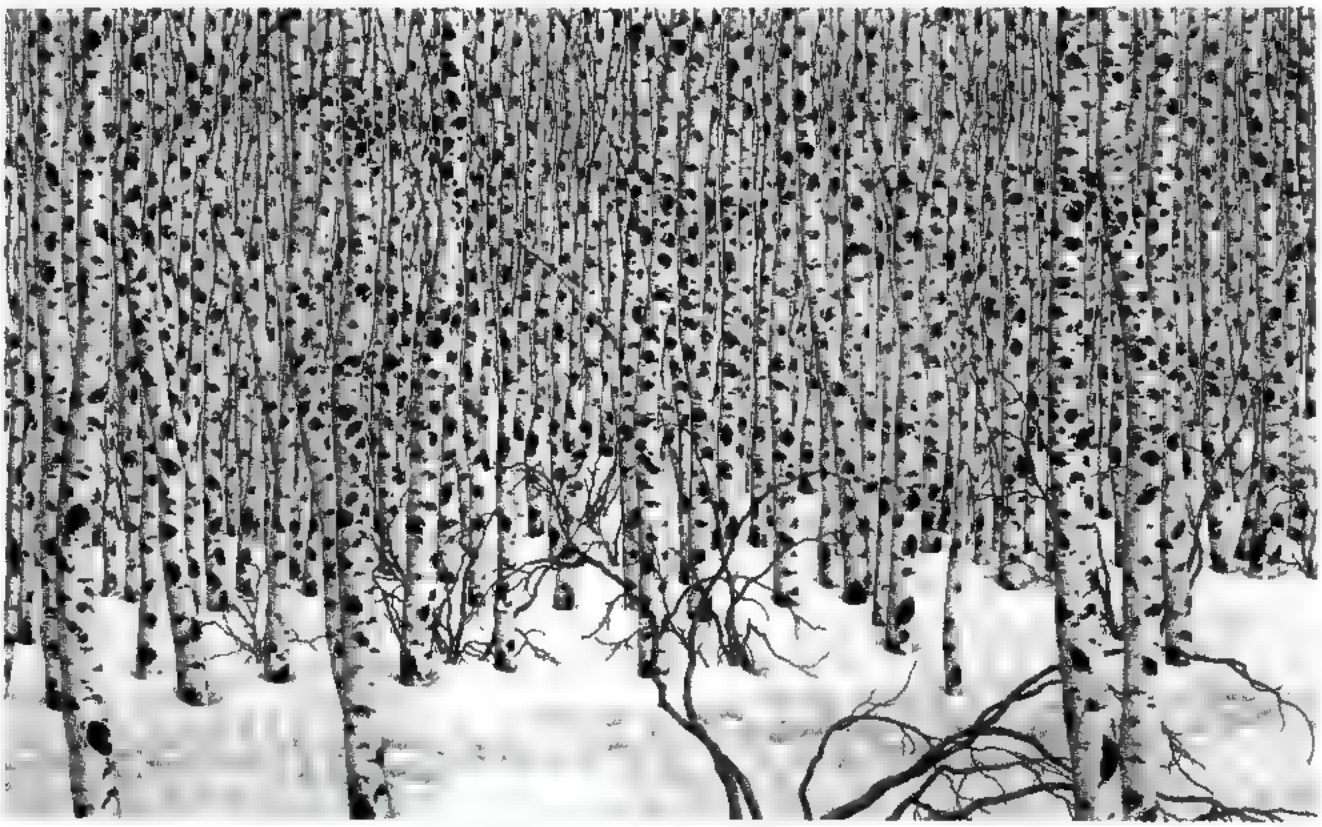
Bev Doolittle refuses to paint an ugly horse. Having grown up on TV Westerns, this former Campfire Girl and Southern California native became enraptured with the Old West and looked for any excuse to paint a horse. In 1973, she and her husband Jay quit their LA advertising jobs and toured the mountain states, intending to become full-time artists. The journey instilled in Bev a "love of the land" and an environmental consciousness rooted in Native American philosophy.

Bev came to her distinctive "camouflage" art in 1978 while painting a piece for The American Watercolor Society show. Her intent was to "marry realism with the abstract." Her success at doing so can be measured by the thousands of personal commission limited edition prints of her paintings that have been sold by the Greenwich Workshop.

In addition to Bev's books and signed prints, the Greenwich Workshop also markets her latest line of carved porcelain boxes, which are based on her most famous paintings, such as *The Forest Has Eyes.*

Visit Greenwichworkshop.com to view more of Bev Doolittle's art.

Sacred Ground ***(below). Look for the Indian face and three eagle heads in the Aspen forest left of the rider.***



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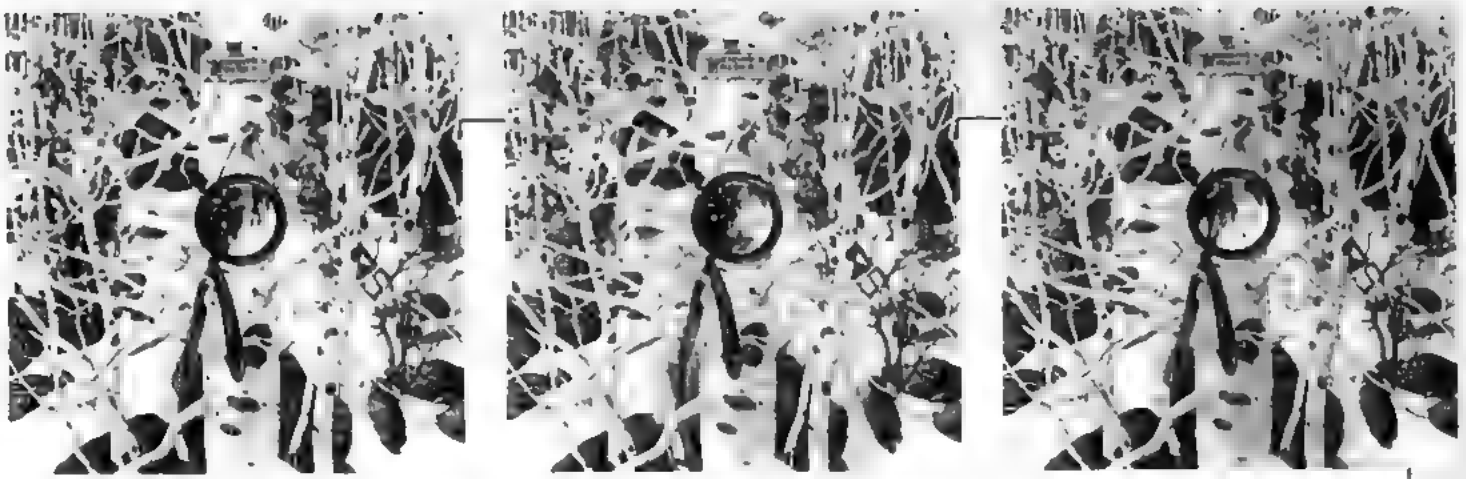

Two More Indian Horses *(above). Look for the two Indians in the Aspens and the cavalry horses they're attempting to steal in the shaving mirror.*
The Forest Has Eyes *(right) contains 13 Indian faces. Can you find them?*

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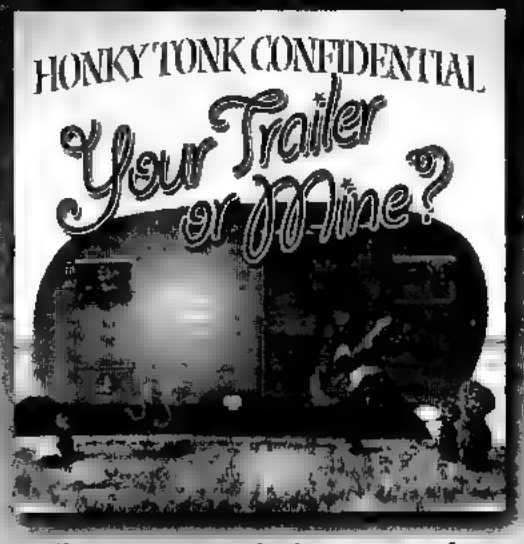

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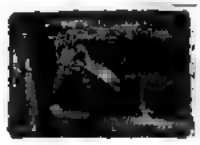

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Rodeo star Adriano Moraes.
– Resistol Rodeo Gear

BY CORINNE BROWN

The Jeans Mystique

Fabric and style innovations.

From James Dean to Adriano Moraes, from the good guys to the bad, everybody's favorite rebel or hero wears jeans. Blue or black denim jeans may be the most popular, but don't discount jeans made from leather, suede or brushed cotton. Never before have jeans been so varied in style: embellished, leather-trimmed, studded, fringed, patched, cut-out and more. Slap a designer name on the rear and the price runs from affordable to unthinkable.

Hats Off to the Innovators

When **Wrangler** offered women the front-zip option over 50 years ago, women's lib truly began! Wrangler moved to the head of the pack partly because women equalized the market. "We based our diverse styling on the snowflake theory," states Joe Hertz, Wrangler Western Wear vice president of GM specialty apparel. "No two are alike."

Lawman Jeans wins the originality category hands down with their sexy leather and pizazzy suede appliqués. **Diamond Cut Jeans** eliminated saddle fatigue by inserting a comfy gusset at the crotch instead of a four-way seam, which made their jeans beloved by endurance riders and competition cowboys. **Resistol Rodeo Gear** takes the honors for a rugged, great fit—the basic reason men buy 'em and wear 'em.

Lawman Jeans reinvents a stylish flair for today's woman. She can go for the pizazz with the traditional cowgirl boot-cut denim, like Crystal (left) wears. Her jeans are embellished with a faux brown suede Western yoke in the front and back, fake lacing on the front fly, with gold-color eyelets and a suede drawstring. Or today's woman can put on her best cowgirl hat and go for the classic look. Honor (right) wears a fashionable boot-cut denim with four-pocket styling, no back yoke and a zip fly.

– Courtesy Lawman Jeans –

Wrangler was the first to recognize women's diverse needs when it offered the front zip option as well as the side closure, which was the norm 50 years ago. In Wrangler's promo ad for women's lib (left), rodeo performer Berva Dawn Sorensen showed Western women what a little front zip can do!

Courtesy Wrangler

Jean Speak

Diamond Cut Jeans

Carpenter or Utility–Features extra pockets and loops, now acceptable in competition.

Stack–The knee to ankle crumple, cut cowboy length.

Low rise–Formerly hip-huggers (if you remember these, you can't wear 'em).

Relaxed–Mid-life euphemism for "comfortable."

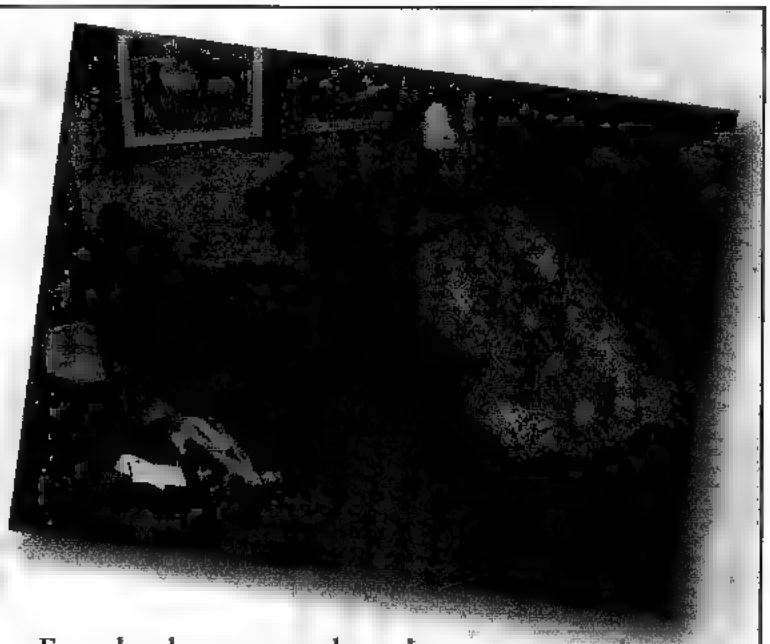
Classic Fit–What wearers over 40 call "The Original."

Distressed–A denim finish, or depending on the jean, how you'll feel at the cashier!

Corinne

[illegible]

Double D Western World



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BY GEORGE SIBLEY

Law, Order and Western Writers

Come to Gunnison Valley.

A picnic on the Taylor River near Almont, Colorado, c. 1910. At Almont, 10 miles north of Gunnison, the Taylor and East Rivers combine to form the Gunnison.

– ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO –

When writers who love the West convene this July in Gunnison, Colorado, they'll be meeting in a valley with deep lodes of Western lore and legends—some of them relatively untapped.

The valley of the Gunnison River, above Black Canyon, is part of the Colorado Mineral Belt that gave rise to what Colorado historian Duane Smith called "the urban frontier"—an ever-shifting region of "instant cities" formed as hordes of eager prospectors migrated from one strike to the next. Northeast of Upper Gunnison is the better known Leadville mining district that boomed in the 1860s; to the Southwest lies the San Juan district with 1870s boomtowns: Ouray, Lake City, Creede and Silverton.

Prospectors passed through the Upper Gunnison as early as 1860. That autumn in Taylor Park, just over the pass from Leadville, prospector Gus Lamb went for an early morning drink of stream water and saw some good-looking gravel. Rolling a little of it in his drinking cup, he found a trace of color and the "Tin Cup" legend began. It was almost 20 years before the wild town of Tin Cup livened up—possibly because Taylor Park records some of the coldest temperatures in the United States, once 61 degrees below zero. The miners had to "high-grade" the milder districts before they were ready to take on the heavy snows and cold temperatures of the Upper Gunnison.

Once they got here, they found an accommodating atmosphere. The entrepreneurs who developed Tin Cup ran it with a one-plank political philosophy: everything is dandy as long as it doesn't interfere with sluicing gold out of miners' pockets. An early marshal was warned, "the first man he attempted to arrest would be his last." Five marshals died trying to end that intimidation.

Not to worry, the law is now in place and there may not be any snow July 10-14 when members of Western Writers of America teach the third annual Writing the West workshops at Western State College in Gunnison. This year's keynote speaker is John Murray, author of the award-winning non-fiction work, *Mythmakers of the American West.* Students will enjoy three days of accredited writing workshops, intermingled with tours of the valley's natural and cultural heritage, including the 103rd Cattlemen's Days Rodeo celebration.

George Sibley is a freelance writer living in Gunnison, who teaches part-time at Western State College.

Visit **www.westernwriters.com** *for more information.*

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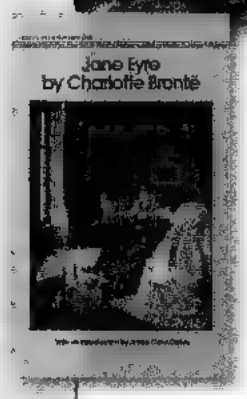
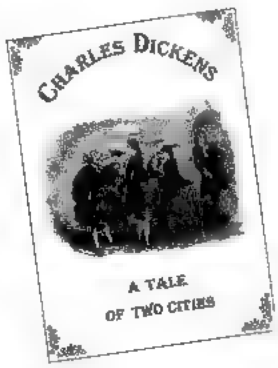
What were they Reading and Singing?

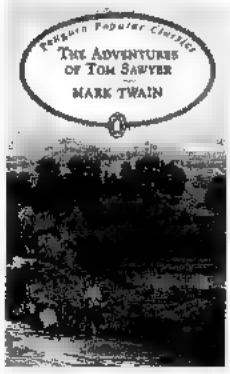
1800s culture is still prevalent in American life.



- Mary Shelley's forever popular monster story, *Frankenstein*, was published in 1818.
- The timeless classic, "Home Sweet Home" was first sung in 1823.
- *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper, 1826.
- The first *American Dictionary of the English Language* by Noah Webster, 1828.
- Prophet Joseph Smith's *The Book of Mormon*, 1830.
- "Amazing Grace" was published in 1835, although originally penned in 1789.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*, 1836.
- *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman*, by Sarah Moore Grimke, 1838.
- Edgar Allan Poe's *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*, 1840.
- The song "Buffalo Gals" (a.k.a. "Pittsburgh Gals" or "Louisiana Gals," depending on where the minstrel was performing), 1844.
- Frederick Douglass' narrative on his life as an American slave, 1845.
- Stephen Foster's classic song, which became a pet song of the 49ers during the California gold rush, "Oh! Susanna," 1845.
- Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, 1847.
- Henry David Thoreau's *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*, 1849.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, 1850.
- Stephen Foster's classic song "Camptown Races," 1850.
- Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, 1851.
- Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1852.
- Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, 1855 (Whitman issued editions until his death in 1892; the last one is known as the "deathbed edition").
- Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*, 1859.

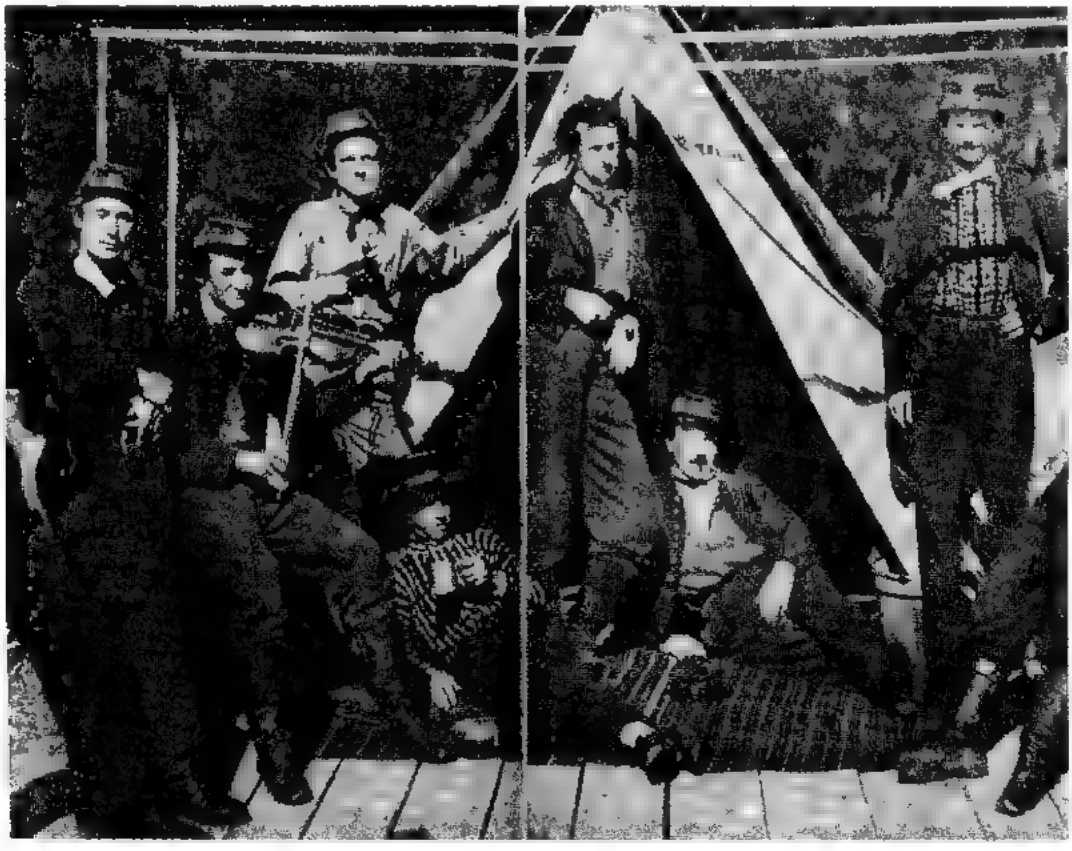
- George Eliot's *Silas Marner*, 1861 (Eliot was a pseudonym for Mary Ann Evans).
- In 1862, the haunting love song "Lorena" made Confederate soldiers so homesick, many deserted. Called "that cursed ballad," by one general, he ordered his officers to kill the author. Thousands of girls all over America were christened Lorena.
- "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," was the 1863 favorite of Union soldiers.
- Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, 1864.
- The Negro slave song, "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," 1867.
- Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, 1868.
- Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, 1876.
- The hugely popular minstrel song, "Oh, Dem Golden Slippers," 1879.
- Lew Wallace's *Ben Hur*, 1880.
- Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*, 1890.
- Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, 1892





- While Robert Louis Stevenson had previously published *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in England, he published it in America in 1893.
- "A Hot Time in the Old Town," in 1896 was one of the first songs to be recorded on wax cylinders for play on the new phonograph machine.
- H.G. Wells intrigued and shocked the world with *The Time Machine* in 1895, *The Invisible Man* in 1897 and *War of the Worlds* in 1898.

From *Everyday Life in the 1800s* by Marc McCutcheon.



Confederate gunners of the Washington Artillery from New Orleans, Louisiana, at camp before the battle at Stones River. They too may have sung the haunting love song "Lorena" and felt pangs of homesickness.

– True West Archives –

"Lorena" by Reverend H.D.L. Webster

The years creep slowly by, Lorena,
The snow is on the grass again;
The sun's low down the sky Lorena,
The frost gleams where the flowers have been
But the heart throbs on as lovely now,
As when the summer days were nigh;
Oh, the sun can never dip so low,
Adown affection's cloudless sky.

A hundred months have passed, Lorena,
Since last I held your hand in mine,
And felt that pulse beat fast, Lorena,
Though mine beat faster far than thine;
A hundred months—'twas flow'ry May,
When up the hilly slopes we climbed,
To watch the dying of the day,
And hear the distant church bells chimed.

We loved each other then, Lorena,
More than we ever dared to tell,
And what we might have been, Lorena,
Had but our loving prospered well—
But then, 'tis past, the years are gone,
I'll not call up their shadowy forms;
I'll say to them, "Lost years, sleep on,
Sleep on, nor heed life's pelting storms."

The story of the past, Lorena,
Alas, I care not to repeat,
The hopes that could not last, Lorena,
They lived, but only lived to cheat;
I would not cause e'en one regret,
To rankle in your bosom now;
For "if we try, we may forget,"
Were words of thine long years ago.

Yes, these were words of thine, Lorena,
They burn within my memory yet;
They touch some tender chords, Lorena,
Which thrill and tremble with regret;
'Twas not thy woman's heart that spoke;
Thy heart was always true to me—
A duty, stern and pressing, broke
The tie which linked my soul to thee.

It matters little now, Lorena,
The past—is in eternal past,
Our heads will soon lie down, Lorena,
Life's tide is ebbing out so fast;
There is a future—oh, thank God—
Of life this is so small a part,
'Tis dust to dust beneath the sod,
But there, up there, 'tis heart to heart.

To hear "Lorena," go to *www.truewestmagazine.com*.

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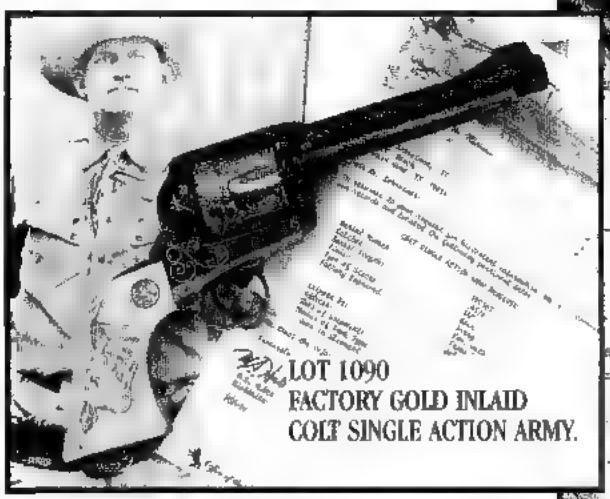

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Preview: 12noon-7pm / Auction begins at 7pm

SESSION II: TUESDAY, April 29, 2003
Preview: 10am-12noon / Auction begins at 12noon

SESSION III: TUESDAY EVENING, Auction begins at 7pm

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BY JANA BOMMERSBACH

Hubbard Museum of the American West

Gunfighter series comes to historic Lincoln area.

When the "Gunfighter" comes to the Hubbard Museum of the American West this summer, it will be the latest in a string of impressive displays that have made this Smithsonian Institution affiliate a major contribution to the cultural heritage of the horse and the American West.

The Hubbard, on Highway 70 in Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico, is one of America's newer history museums. Founded in 1989 to handle the extensive personal art collection of R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard, it quickly expanded and offers five major features:

- The Museum of the Horse exhibits 10,000 objects from the Anne C. Stradling Collection, including bits, spurs, bridles and saddles from around the world.
- The Ruidoso Downs Race Horse Hall of Fame opened in 1997 with one of the most extensive collections of horse racing artifacts. The track is home to the $2 million All American Futurity, the world's richest and most coveted Quarter Horse race.
- The annual Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium has been operated by the museum since 1995. Poets and musicians perform almost nonstop, and a highlight is the world-renowned chuck wagon cookoff. The symposium has been touted as the "nation's leading cowboy heritage event."
- The Billy the Kid National Scenic Byway Visitors Center is operated by the museum and the village of Ruidoso.
- Historic Lincoln has landmark buildings with historical ties to Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, Lew Wallace, the Buffalo Soldiers and cattleman John Chisum. Several properties are currently being preserved through a "Save America's Treasures" grant from the National Park Service.

The newest addition to the museum's list of accomplishments is "Gunfighter—Historic Insight into the Lawmen and Outlaws of the American West," which opens May 24 to Oct. 26 and is presented in collaboration with *True West*.

The Hubbard Museum's vast collection of Western vehicles: some are elegant, some are crude, but all seem flimsy.

– COURTESY HUBBARD MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN WEST

The exhibit will include materials from the collections of Robert G. McCubbin, publisher of *True West*; Bob Boze Bell, the magazine's executive editor; Phil Spangenberger, gun expert and *True West* field editor; Texas Rangers Museum; Arizona Historical Society and Wells Fargo Museum.

The central figures profiled in "Gunfighter" include the Earp brothers, Black Jack Ketchum, Pat Garrett, John Wesley Hardin, the James Boys, Elfego Baca, Doc Holliday, Wild Bill Hickok, Butch Cassidy, Black Bart, John Ringo, the Dalton Gang, Luke Short, Bill Doolin, King Fisher, Deacon Jim Miller, Pearl Hart, Tom Horn, John Kinney, the Mastersons, Jeff Milton, Bill Miner, John Selman, Henry Starr, Dallas Stoudenmire, Ned Christie and both the Texas and Arizona Rangers. And, of course, Billy the Kid.

The lecture series includes Leon Metz, author and outlaws-lawmen historian; Drew Gomber, author and Billy the Kid authority; Herb Marsh, author and expert on Lincoln history; Phil Spangenberger, firearms expert and upcoming gun columnist for *True West* and Bob Boze Bell, Western author and artist.

The Hubbard Museum of the American West, one of New Mexico's most significant museums and its only Smithsonian affiliate, is worth a visit, whether there's a gunfighter in sight or not.

For more information, go to the museum's website at **www.hubbardmuseum.com** *or call* **505-378-4142.**

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- Yogi Berra

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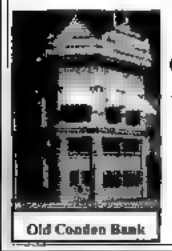

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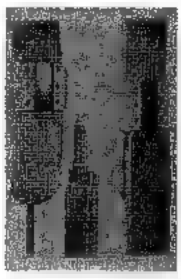

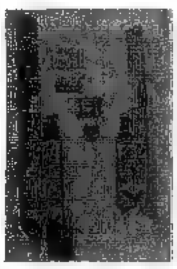

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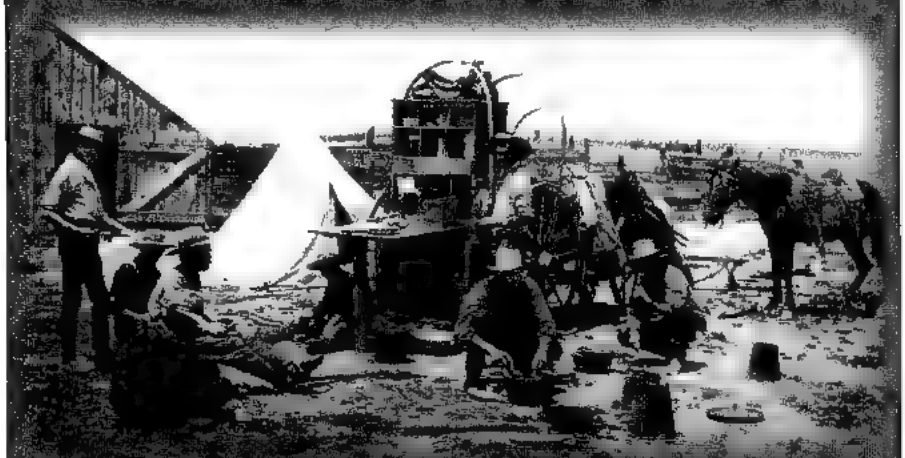

Colorado Cattle Round-up, The Grab, File © 1899

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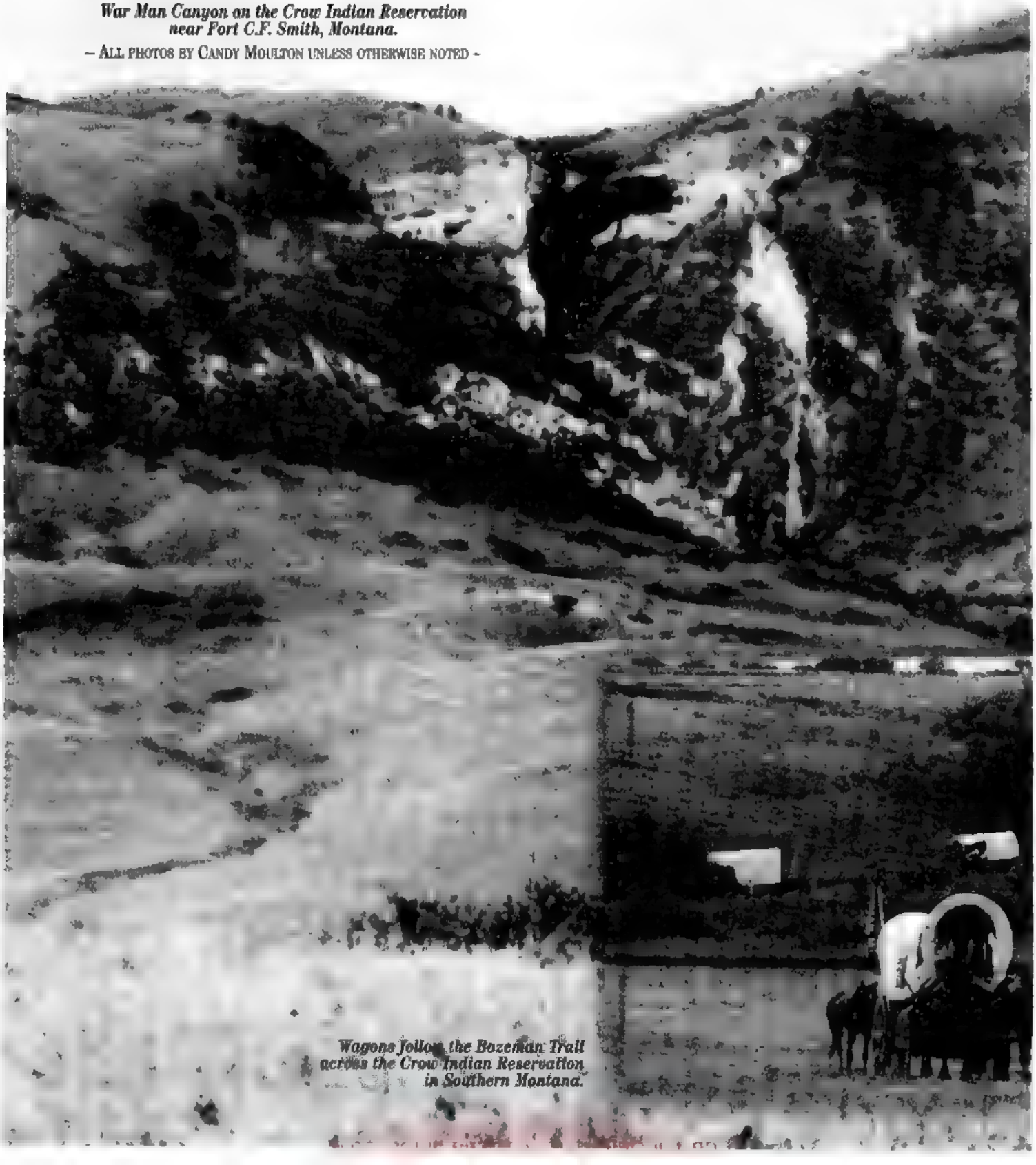
RENEGADE ROADS

War Man Canyon on the Crow Indian Reservation near Fort C.F. Smith, Montana.

– ALL PHOTOS BY CANDY MOULTON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED –



Wagons follow the Bozeman Trail across the Crow Indian Reservation in Southern Montana.

BY CANDY MOULTON

The Bloody Bozeman

"They did not want our road to run through their country."
—C M Lee, 1864

Prospectors found gold at Bannack, Montana Territory, in the summer of 1862. The next year they found gold at nearby Alder Gulch and the rush was on. Miners already in the West working old claims in California, Nevada and Colorado now headed for the new diggings. Those who had not yet caught gold fever felt the bite as soon as wagon trains began organizing along the Missouri River to head to the new bonanza.

Knowing the miners from the East would want to reach the gold country as quickly as possible, miner John Bozeman and mountain man John Jacobs left Montana's Beaverhead Valley in early 1863 to find a route that would shorten the trip. Traveling with Emma, Jacob's young half-Flathead Indian daughter, they headed east and eventually south along the east flank of the Bighorns. Along the way, they ran into Indians who took their food, horses and other belongings. It was the first of many confrontations that would occur on a trail that earned the title The Bloody Bozeman.

The Sept. 17, 1851, treaty negotiated with the Indian tribes at Horse Creek near present-day Torrington, Wyoming, established tribal lands. The Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, Arikara, Gros Ventre, Assiniboin and Hidatsa agreed to keep the peace and allow emigrants roads through their territory. The road they agreed to was the major east-west highway—the Oregon-California Trail.

The land north of the North Platte River and east of the Bighorn Mountains remained Indian territory and is now known as the Powder River Basin. It had abundant grass and game, and the Indians considered certain portions of it sacred.

Bozeman Trail scholar Susan Badger Doyle wrote, "the most significant consequence [of the Bozeman Trail] was that it cut through the Powder River Basin, the last and best hunting grounds of the Northern Plains Indians, and led to military occupation of the region and ultimately resulted in the Indian wars on the Northern Plains."

On July 6, 1863, John Bozeman and John Jacobs, with guide Rafael Gallegos, led the first wagon train of emigrants onto the Bozeman Trail. They left from Deer Creek on the North Platte River (near Glenrock, Wyoming). Indian hostilities prevented them from completing their journey, though Bozeman did lead a pack train on to Montana after the wagons turned back to the Oregon Trail.

In 1864, three wagon trains left from Richard's (Reshaw's) Bridge in present-day Evansville, Wyoming, just east of Casper. Their trains were the first to travel the entire trail to Montana's gold fields near Alder Gulch.

On June 16, 1864, Allen Hurlbut led a large wagon train of prospectors—124 wagons and 438 people—from Richard's Bridge onto the Bozeman Trail. Hurlbut's train reached Montana after a wagon train of 109 wagons, led by John Bozeman, departed from Richard's Bridge on June 18, 1864. The Bozeman train reached the Montana gold fields before the Hurlbut train (in part because the prospectors with Hurlbut had stopped to prospect in the Bighorn Mountains of Northcentral Wyoming). A wagon train organized by John T. Smith left from Richard's Bridge a few days after Bozeman's train had departed. These two parties later met up and reached Montana together.

Through the next two years, Jim Bridger, James Sawyers and others led trains through the region, establishing new routes that are all part of the Bozeman Trail corridor.

From the first explorations until the trail was abandoned as a through-travel route in the late 1860s, there was conflict. Wagon trains had armed battles with Indians on the Bozeman. Emigrants had to circle their wagons for protection. And many travelers died and now lie buried along the trail.

In 1866, the army established three forts to protect the travelers: Fort Reno and Fort Phil Kearny in what is now Wyoming, and Fort C.F. Smith on the present-day Crow Indian Reservation in Montana. Once work

SIDE ROAD

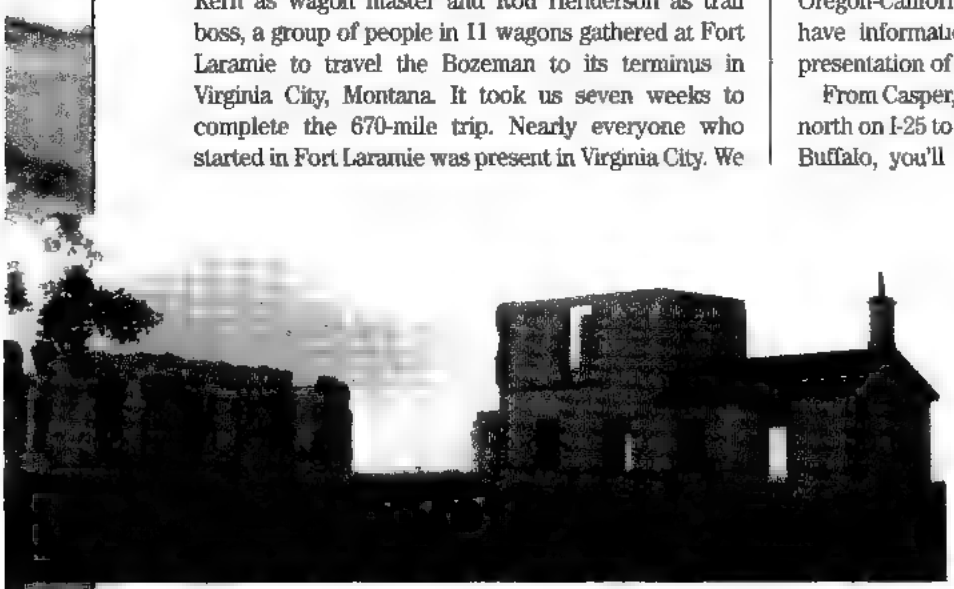
Good Sleeps

Hotel Higgins, Glenrock, Wyoming
The Occidental Hotel, Buffalo, Wyoming
The Murray Hotel, Livingston, Montana
Fairweather Inn, Virginia City, Montana
Best Western Yellowstone Inn, Livingston, Montana

began on the forts, Indians attacked soldiers in some of the bloodiest battles of the Northern Plains. The 1864-1866 conflict became known as the First Sioux War or Red Cloud's War.

When the confederated tribes succeeded in driving the military from the region in 1867, the Indians immediately burned all three forts and, for the most part, travel over the Bozeman ceased.

I was fortunate to travel much of the Bozeman Trail as the pioneers did, by wagon train. In 2001 with Ben Kern as wagon master and Rod Henderson as trail boss, a group of people in 11 wagons gathered at Fort Laramie to travel the Bozeman to its terminus in Virginia City, Montana. It took us seven weeks to complete the 670-mile trip. Nearly everyone who started in Fort Laramie was present in Virginia City. We ate dust and dirt. We slept on the ground in wind, rain and extreme heat. Wagon accidents and injuries occurred along the way and a few horses and two teams of oxen didn't complete the trip.



Fort Laramie (a.k.a. Fort William, Fort Lucien and Fort John) was a fur trading post from 1834-49 and an army post from 1849-90.

Not everyone has the chance to cross the trail by wagon. Even assuming you have access to one, it's still difficult because so much of the trail crosses private property and the Crow Indian Reservation. So, for those of you who prefer a car and a motel room at night, I'll lay out a "modern" route, interspersing a few diary entries from me and wagon master Ben Kern.

Begin at Fort Laramie NHS if you haven't been there, or start the trip at Douglas, Wyoming, where the Bozeman leaves the North Platte River to head cross-country.

June 11, 2001: *Had a wind storm last night just when we went to bed, but no rain. . . . We have eleven wagons and more than a dozen horseback riders*

June 12: *Finally in camp after making 28 miles, we set up tents only to have a bad windstorm move through. Tornado warnings were up and we watched the clouds as the temperature dropped. The wind flattened many of the tents.*

Northwest of Douglas, visit Fort Fetterman, a site the early travelers passed, though the fort was not present when the Bozeman Trail was first used.

Though the trail itself cuts north across the Powder River Basin, it is primarily on private land, so you should leave Douglas and take I-25 west to Evansville, where you can detour to the North Platte and see the location of the Richard's (Reshaw's) Bridge, which is now part of an Evansville town park. You may also want to visit the National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in nearby Casper. The center focuses its interpretation on the Oregon-California, Mormon and Pony Express Trails, but does have information about the Bozeman, and there is a good presentation of Indian viewpoints about the various trails.

From Casper, which is a good place to stay overnight, continue north on I-25 to Buffalo. If you eat lunch at Colonel Bozeman's in Buffalo, you'll be right on the Bozeman Trail. From Buffalo continue north on I-90 a dozen miles to Fort Phil Kearny. This recreated post is now a Wyoming historical site, and the folks who work here can direct you to Plains Indian war battle sites, including the location of the Fetterman Fight of Dec. 21, 1866, and the Wagon Box Fight of Aug. 2, 1867.

To continue your journey from Fort Kearny, take Wyoming 193 or U.S. 87 north to Sheridan, another good overnight stop. From Sheridan follow I-90 north to Ranchester, where the site of the Connor Battlefield is now a town park.

July 2: *We were only about three miles from tonight's camp when we had a bad accident. One of the wagons in the back of the train had a runaway. It was a lucky thing there was a ravine. When one of the guys was thrown out, the wagon box came off the running gear and bounced right over where he lay, but he landed in the small ravine so he wasn't seriously hurt. The guys put the wagon back together and the mules weren't injured so we made it in to camp ok. We are at Connor Battlefield campground in Ranchester, grass and big trees.*

July 3: *We left Connor Battlefield at Ranchester early and went up the highway before crossing onto private ranch land. Then it was up ranch roads for a time before we finally struck out across the country. Not long before lunch, we broke out onto a pasture*

SIDE ROAD

Good Eats and Places to Wet Your Whistle

Poor Boys Steakhouse, Casper, Wyoming

Colonel Bozeman's (because it is literally on the Bozeman Trail), Buffalo, Wyoming

Cowboy Bar, Sheridan, Wyoming

Livingston Bar & Grill, Livingston, Montana

Baxter Hotel & Lounge, Bozeman, Montana

Bale of Hay Saloon, Virginia City, Montana

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Wagon Box Fight memorial marker.

Courtesy Wyoming Division of Tourism

that was just big rolling hills and tall grass. Though I love to walk with the train, it's hard to walk right with them because the mules and horses move pretty quickly. I finally grabbed onto the back of Chuck and Mary's wagon to better pace myself

As you leave Ranchester and head into Montana, you'll be east of the trail that crosses private land as it makes its way along the east face of the Bighorn Mountains.

July 5: *We came to Dry Soap Creek today and it was a long trail. I walked several miles. It was so hot we ran out of water. We trudged on up the hills and down again. Kim's team gave out and so did George's. Ben unhooked Kate and Jim to pull George's wagon out of a ditch. Then George rehooked and just took his time climbing the last big hill. We came on into camp. I walked some this afternoon. It is miserably hot. 108 degrees. The wind is blowing and it feels just like a blast furnace. Wagons trickled in all afternoon. Chuck's surrey broke a wheel, spilling the women out as they started down one hill. Nobody was seriously injured. Kim finally made it in, but his team is exhausted. Bill Speiden broke the tongue on the wagon today. Ame told me the oxen had charged into some trees because they were so hot and tired. In trying to get them out, the wagon turned too sharply and the tongue snapped. There*

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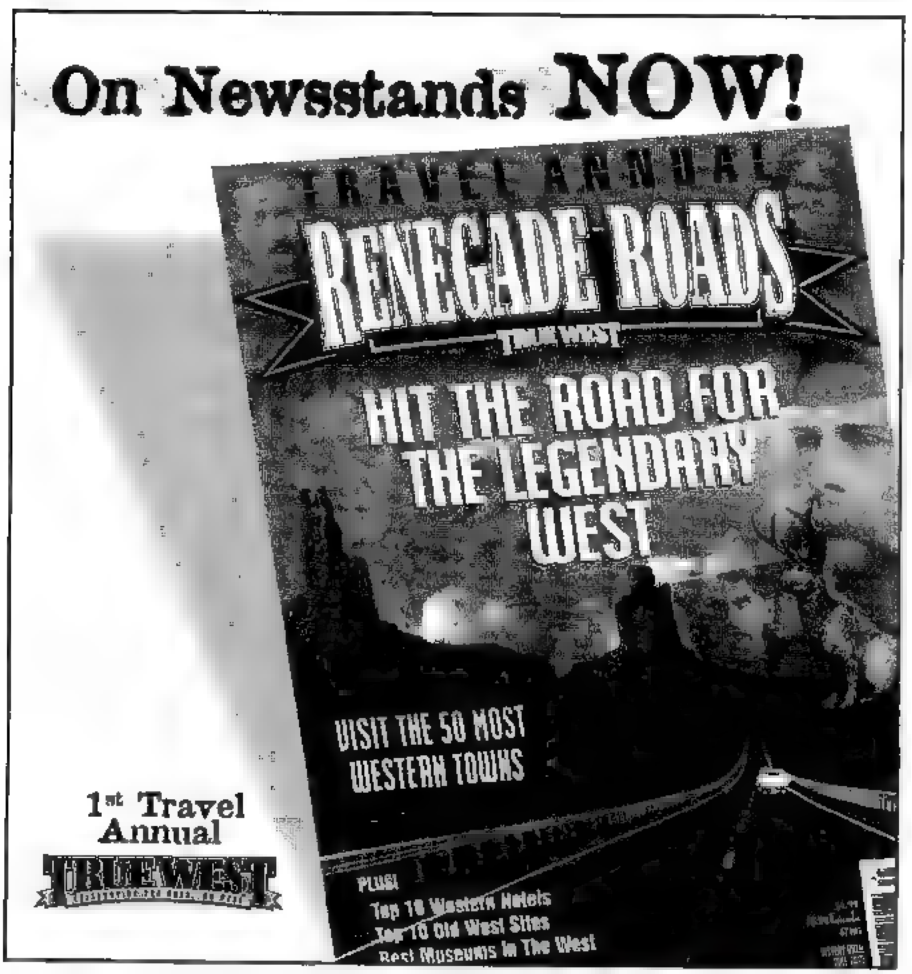


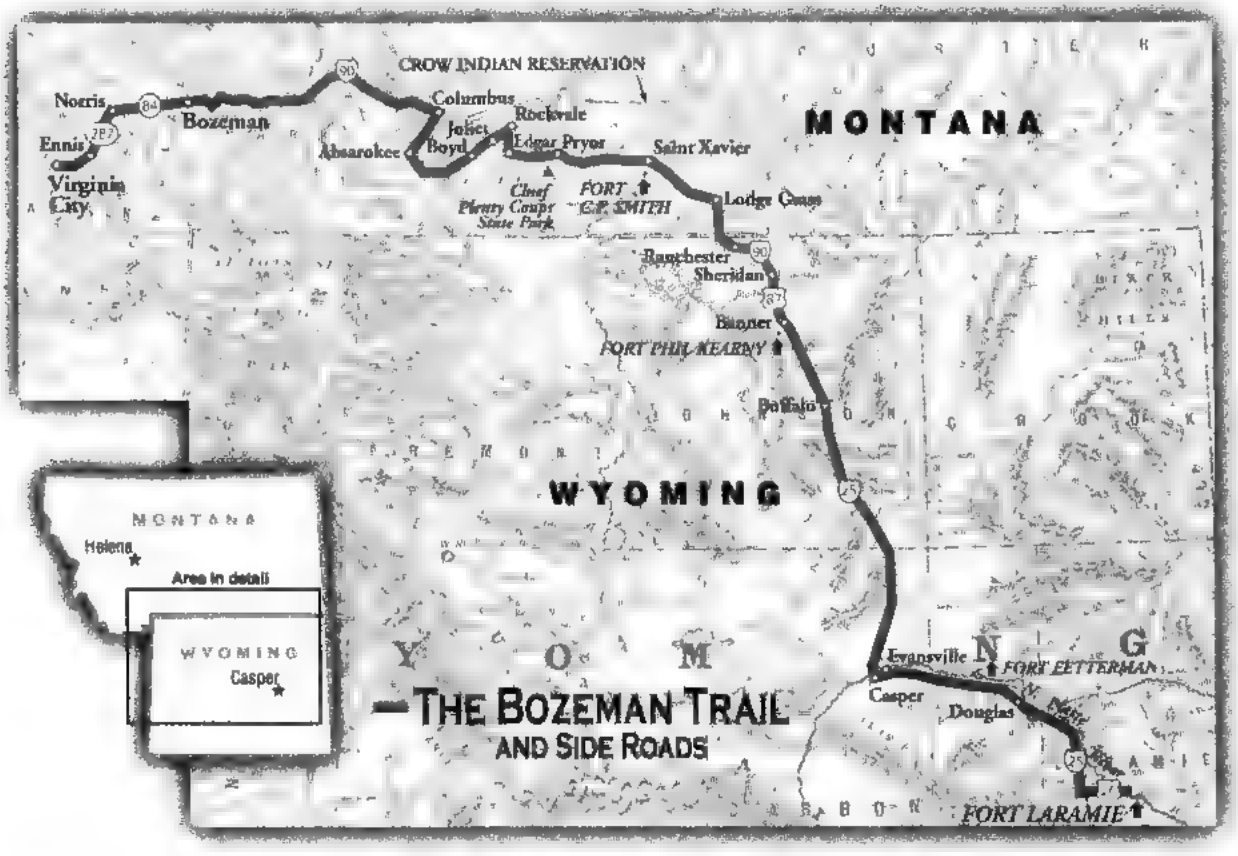
is a creek below camp so everybody had the chance for a bath.

July 6: *We came on to Fort C.F. Smith today. A glorious ride—though we went miles out of our way because we couldn't get down on the original trail. Howard Boggess rode in our wagon today. He is a Crow historian and he pointed out various landmarks, including some rock arrows that he said marked the original Athapascan Trail from Mexico to Canada.*

In Montana, as you follow the Bozeman in your vehicle, head west at Lodge Grass to Fort Smith and you'll find the site of old Fort C.F. Smith, one of the three forts built to protect the trail. Emigrant wagons crossed the Bighorn River here at the Spotted Rabbit Crossing.

July 9: *I waited about an hour for the wagons to reach the river for this morning's crossing at Spotted Rabbit. They came through the trees and Ben led them into the water. . . . Aaron Myers of Billings was driving a six-up and he had trouble in the middle of the river when one of the mules balked and the others got tangled in the lines. They got going again but one of the outriders got in the way and the mules stopped again, then one of the middle team lunged, breaking the tongue and the mules got all tangled. Several outriders went in and they finally got it straightened out and the teams pulled the wagon out of the river. . . . We passed by some rifle pits—no doubt dug during the 1860s—and traveled through some incredible trail swales. Hard rain this afternoon and I left the tent door open when Ben and I were away from camp so my bedroll is wet tonight.*

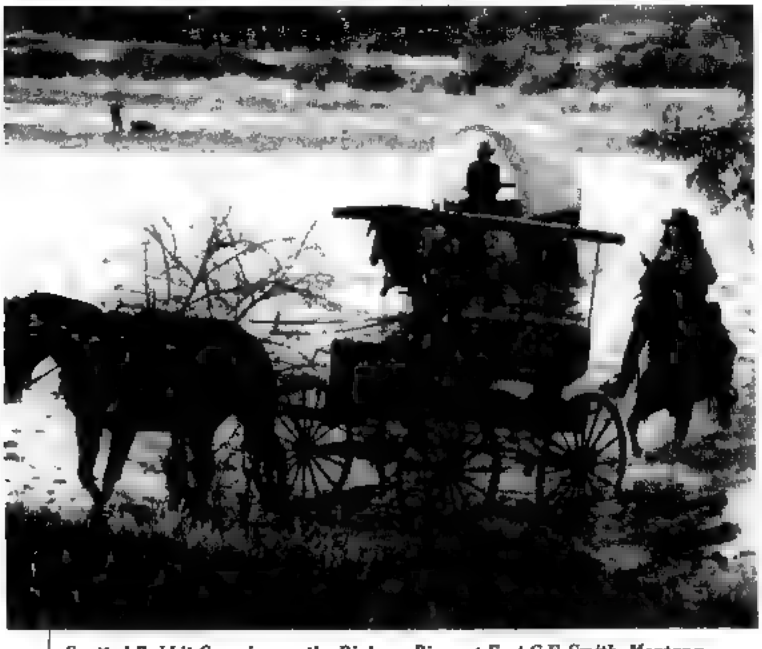
From Fort Smith, take local roads north or backtrack to Saint Xavier before heading west to Pryor and Chief Plenty Coups State Park. The trail continues to the west through Edgar, Rockvale, Joliet and Absarokee. From there, swing up to Columbus and take I-90 west to Bozeman, the city named for John Bozeman, who helped pioneer his namesake trail.



Ben Kern, July 11, Chief Plenty Coups State Park: *We left this morning and went up Pryor Creek toward the Pryor Mountains. Then we turned off and went up Bird Creek toward the Bridger Summit. On the top of the Bridger Pass, they [teams] doubled up on Bob Fosnot's wagon and on George's wagon. It was steep. That last pull was really steep. We followed Five Mile all the way down to Clark's Fork. On the way down, Howard pointed out all the tipi rings. We crossed Clark's Fork at Edgar, where the original crossing was on Clark's Fork. We went on to Joliet and that's where we camped.*

Ben Kern, July 16: *We crossed the Stillwater River this morning and went to Stockade Ridge. From Stockade Ridge to the west, the Bridger Trail and the Bozeman Trail are about five miles apart. Traveled from Stockade Ridge to the Turtin Ranch. It's just a very dim old two-track and that's where the trail went.*

From Bozeman, head west on Montana Route 84 to Norris, then turn south on U.S. 287 to McAllister and Ennis before following Montana Route 287 over the divide to Virginia City, where the wagon trail ended for the pioneers and for our modern-day train as well.



Spotted Rabbit Crossing on the Bighorn River at Fort C.F. Smith, Montana.

This summer, **Candy Moulton** is driving a mule team that will pull a wagon across the south branch of the Cherokee Trail in Southern Wyoming. Watch for that story in a future issue of *True West*.

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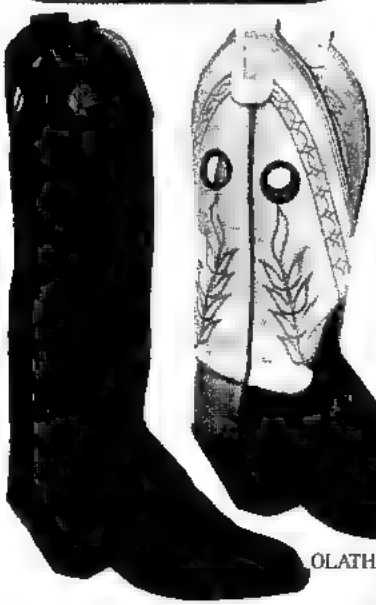
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BY M.J. VANDEVENTER

From Cow Town to Western Chic

Take a day trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

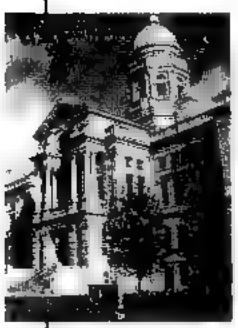
If you have a passion for the Old West, you'll be right at home in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This city of 53,000 people is the northern anchor of the Front Range and the capital of Wyoming. It's also becoming a major commerce center.

Cheyenne began as a rowdy, railroad town, with lots of saloons and numerous variety and burlesque theaters. With the Union Pacific's support, opera houses eventually replaced the bawdier forms of frontier entertainment.

Miss Frontier (left) and her Lady in Waiting pose with little cowgirls at the Old West Museum's Kid Cowboy Festival, held each June.

– All photos courtesy Cheyenne Center & Visitors Bureau –

Cattle and culture became the mainstays of Cheyenne's early days. The railroad made the latest styles accessible, while the beef industry attracted wealthy cattle barons from the East and Europe. These men brought not only money, but also good breeding and the finest social amenities. In addition, they prompted the formation of the famed Cheyenne Social Club, inspired by English gentlemen's clubs. Today, the club houses the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce.



The Wyoming Capitol is one of the few in the U.S. with a gold-covered dome.

Cheyenne is home to Cheyenne Frontier Days, the granddaddy of all rodeos. This spectacular event –July 18-27, 2003—offers nine days of PRCA action, and boasts the largest purse in professional rodeo—more than $880,000.

The pace is slower, but don't miss the Old West Museum's wagons and Cheyenne history exhibits. The Cowgirls of the West Museum highlights area cowgirls' contributions to Wyoming's history.

The newest of Cheyenne's seven museums is the Nelson Museum of the West, born out of Wyoming native Robert L. Nelson's passion for the past. Here you'll see Native American beadwork, saddles and frontier military memorabilia. A good way to view these attractions is by taking the self-guided Museum Loop Tour.

The Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley is an easy way to get around town. Many of the tours offer narrations on Cheyenne's colorful past. You can also tour downtown in a carriage, a more romantic way to get your bearings. Also check out the Convention and Visitors Bureau's self-guided walking tour through the town's historical core and visit the Union Pacific depot and the Tivoli Building.

One of your first stops should be the Wyoming State Capitol, a national historic landmark and one of the most beautiful buildings in the West, with marble floors, detailed woodwork and an outstanding collection of historical photographs. The Governor's Mansion is equally stunning.

If you're lucky, you'll encounter the Cheyenne Gunslingers, a group of pistol-packin' re-enactors who stage mock gunfights and other Wild West activities in Cheyenne's Old Town Square.

For a view of Old West ranching, tour the Terry Bison Ranch. Watch a bison drive, take a horse-drawn wagon tour or go horseback riding. And be sure to stop for a cool one in the Terry Bison Saloon.

End your day trip with high tea at the Nagle Warren Mansion, a Victorian showpiece that is now an elegant B&B owned by Jim Osterfoss. He's a perfect host for harking you back to another era, saying "My dream is to provide the best lodging experience for the discerning traveler."

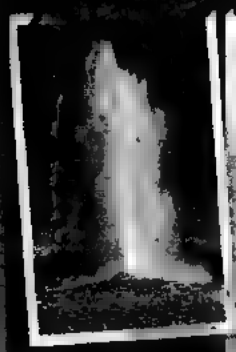
Enjoy high tea and imagine yourself an English baron of yesteryear. Better yet, stay the night in Victorian splendor and be pampered—Western style.

M.J. VanDeventer is the editor of *Persimmon Hill* magazine.

"I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist it."

- Mae West

Travel



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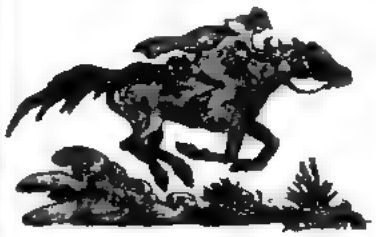

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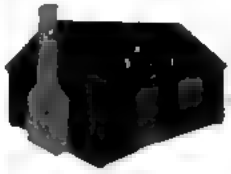

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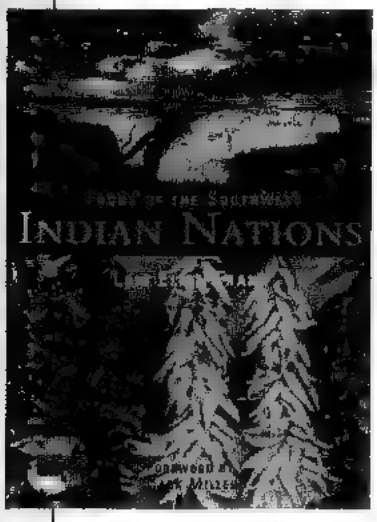


NONFICTION

FOODS OF THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN NATIONS

LOIS ELLEN FRANK, TEN SPEED PRESS, 208 PAGES, $35.00, HARDCOVER.

Santa Fe chef and anthropologist Lois Ellen Frank, whose grandfather was Kiowa, spent more than 15 years on reservations, documenting culinary history through photographs and more than 100 recipes. From mouthwatering posole to venison steak with juniper berry and fiery red chile sauce, this book is sure to delight your senses. —JOHNNY D. BOGGS

CHEYENNES AND HORSE SOLDIERS: THE 1857 EXPEDITION AND THE BATTLE OF SOLOMON'S FORK

WILLIAM Y. CHALFANT, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS, 440 PAGES, $24.95, SOFTCOVER.

This fine book tells us in exacting detail, yet with clarity and verve, the story of the First Cavalry's 1857 expedition against the Cheyennes. At Solomon's Fork in Kansas Territory, Col. E.V. Sumner led 300 troopers against an equal number of warriors. The astonished Cheyennes scattered when Sumner ordered a saber charge (for the first and last time in our Indian Wars), instead of attacking with carbines and pistols. Sumner was one of a small group of first-rate, pre-Civil War Indian fighters, men usually neglected by historians hypnotized by post-war campaigns in general and Lt. Col. Custer in particular. —RICHARD H. DILLON

FORT UNION AND THE UPPER MISSOURI FUR TRADE

BARTON H. BARBOUR, RED RIVER BOOKS, 304 PAGES, $19.95, SOFTCOVER.

Fort Union was a vitally important trading center and melting pot from 1830-67. Constructed near the fork of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers by Astor's American Fur Company, the fur trading post attracted Indians, trappers, artists, scientists and explorers. Barbour's book extensively details the fort residents' business, geography, personalities, laws and even their diets. Barbour clearly defines the fort's harmonious, multi-cultural populace, which realized the value of co-existence. —CHUCK LEWIS

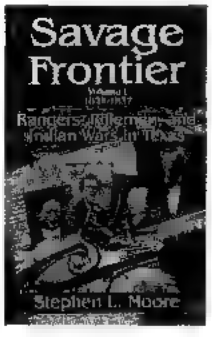
GERONIMO

SHARON McGEE, ARIZONA HIGHWAY BOOKS, 141 PAGES, $7.95, SOFTCOVER.

A quick moving read, this thin volume is a thumbnail sketch of the life and circumstances surrounding the great Indian warrior, Geronimo. While many photos entice the casual reader (for whom the publishers have directed this series), the lack of sources, bibliography and index left me cold. *Geronimo* is heavy with quotes from Geronimo's *Story of His Life*, so your best bet is to pick up both books. —LINDA WOMMACK

SAVAGE FRONTIER

STEPHEN L. MOORE, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PRESS, 335 PAGES, $19.95, SOFTCOVER.



This volume differs from Robert Utley's recent *Lone Star Justice*—instead of being a narrative history of the Texas Rangers in the 19th century, it studies only their earliest years, 1835-37. Moore may not be as deft a writer as Utley, but he is adequate and shines as a "document digger"—he not only details every Indian skirmish, but also the personnel involved, from Captains Dean Smith and Edward Burleson down to the lowliest private. The Rangers' first opponents were not Comanches, but less deadly Kickapoos, Caddos and Karankawas, who sometimes defeated understrength Ranger companies in their formative years. —RICHARD H. DILLON

COMANCHE SOCIETY: BEFORE THE RESERVATION

GERALD BETTY, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 239 PAGES, $39.95, HARDCOVER.

Those Lords of the Plains, the Comanches, were complex. Ferocious with their enemies, they thought nothing of mercilessly attacking such rivals as the aggressive Apaches. Yet their policy of warring against the Southwest was founded on a driving force in Comanche life—kinship. They felt no restraint in stealing livestock, abducting women and children,

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robbing traders and slaying anyone unrelated to them. Betty's excellent ethnohistory provides a much-needed reappraisal of Plains Indian studies. —BILL GARWOOD

MEASURING AMERICA

ANDRO LINKLATER, WALKER & COMPANY, 320 PAGES, $26.00, HARDCOVER.

Weights and measures civilize societies by substituting dependable systems for surveying the land for the Plains Indians' method, which was based on what a person could see from the back of a horse. America is the last large non-metric country left, and one reason why may be our democracy was based on how we measured our land. Linklater questions whether we will lose our democratic principles if we ever did exchange the acre for its global, metric equivalent. Whether you decide America should shake it up or remain a square, *Measuring America* will help you gain a new appreciation of the ground beneath you. —MEGHAN SAAR

RICHES FOR ALL

EDITED BY KENNETH N. OWENS, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS, 416 PAGES, $55.00, HARDCOVER, $27.95, SOFTCOVER.

These well-annotated essays on the California gold rush complement J.S. Holliday's more readable interpretation in *The World Rushed In* and *Rush For Riches*. Contributors stress the worldwide dash for placer nuggets, which were easy to prospect and free for the taking on the public domain. The essays also show how diverse the 49ers were in class, race and ethnicity—Europeans, Mexicans, Chuldenos (California Indians) and Kanakas (Hawaiians); plus Mormons, women and blacks, not to mention white males. Here is a solid social history unblemished by academic "pamphleteering." —RICHARD H. DILLON

FICTION

THE DELIVERANCE: A BARNABY SKYE NOVEL

RICHARD S. WHEELER, FORGE BOOKS, 319 PAGES, $24.95, HARDCOVER.

The arrival of a new Barnaby Skye novel is an occasion for rejoicing. Skye, mountain man, guide and all-around adventurer on the old frontier at Bent's Fort, is on a mission to rescue a Cheyenne woman's children when he finds himself in need of rescuing. Skye will face either his fate at the end of a rope or salvation at the hands of an eccentric Texas adventurer. As always, Wheeler takes us for a memorable ride. —BRIAN J. MURPHY

GALVESTON

P.G. NAGLE, FORGE BOOKS, 384 PAGES, $24.95, HARDCOVER.

The third in her series of Far Western Civil War epics, P.G. Nagle relaxes the reader after the fight at Valverde just long enough to find Jamie in the midst of military confusion as Galveston falls to Union forces. Jamie desperately fights with his regimental forces to regain Galveston and save his family home, amidst the horrors of war—the suspense will grab you. —LINDA WOMMACK

CRUSADER: A WESTERN STORY

MAX BRAND, FIVE STAR, 278 PAGES, $25.95, HARDCOVER.

Harry Camden may be a young, solitary wilderness man, but he's also a boxing promoter who wants to punch-out the visiting world champion. A woman in cahoots with Camden convinces him she needs his winner's purse to save her family's ranch. A long spell of drinking and outlawry leads him to steal the valuable but untamed stallion Crusader. He tames the horse himself, then is enticed by the horse's owner into riding Crusader on a 500-mile cross-country race. Camden wants a new woman in his life bad enough to do it. Max Brand fans will find this book to be consistent with his earlier work. —CHUCK LEWIS

YESTERDAY'S YARNS

KEN OVERCAST, BEAR VALLEY PRESS, 240 PAGES, $16.95, SOFTCOVER.

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True West reviews Books, Movies and Music

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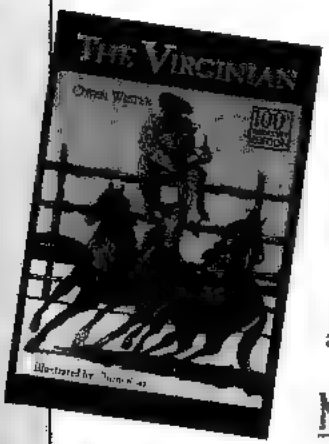
THE VIRGINIAN

OWEN WISTER, ROBERTS RINEHART, 304 PAGES, $29.95, HARDCOVER.

It took a Philadelphia dude to create the prime romantic novel of the Wild West. Before *The Virginian*, cowboys were depicted as murderous thugs but this horseman was handsome and humorous. He downed his Red Eye, played jokes, won himself a beautiful young woman and spoke the unforgettable, "When you call me that, smile!" Because of this book we have Westerns where the cowboy defends justice, his girl's honor and shoots it out with the villain. This 100th Anniversary Edition is sumptuous but one yearns for a more traditional illustrator than Thom Ross. Those elongated horses and cowpokes make the beholder feel Ross was also into the Red Eye. —BILL GARWOOD



MOVIE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN

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Paul Newman, in the title role, uses his gun and a law book to bring justice to South Texas in this humorous take on one of the West's more colorful characters: Judge Roy Bean. John Huston's direction and John Milius' script keep Newman's portrayal tongue-in-cheek, while at the same time making Judge Bean a sympathetic hero. Although the film was disliked by critics when released, it has survived as one of the better Westerns of the 1970s.

—R.G. ROBERTSON

MUSIC

YOUR TRAILER OR MINE?

HONKY TONK CONFIDENTIAL, TOO MANY DOGS MUSIC, 2002.

Honky Tonk Confidential's latest CD features "16 songs about loving, drinking, cheating, murdering and dying"—a vintage jukebox full of romping, well-written and witty tunes, with silky three-part harmonies and distinctive rockabilly charm. The group is not afraid to show its disdain for mainstream country. "Cowboy, Watcha Got on Me?" and "Hit With a Bullet" are a double-barrel blast pointed right at top-40 country music. —LARRY JOHNS

MY LITTLE STAR

SUSANNA VAN TASSEL, THE MUSIC ROOM, 2002.

Proclaimed a honky-tonk angel, Susanna Van Tassel showcases her angelic voice and country sensitivities on her new CD. From the up-tempo "Sometimes" and the soulful and bluesy "Taking My Time" to a rockin' polka cover of Mel Tillis' "Unmitigated Gall," Susanna proves to be one of Austin's most original and exciting new stars. With flawless production by Jim Stringer's Music Room and contributions by some of Austin's best musicians, *My Little Star* is a piece of honky-tonk heaven. —LARRY JOHNS

BLAZING THE WEST

ROSS NICKERSON, PINECASTLE RECORDS, 2003.

Ross Nickerson's bluegrass banjo turns up the heat on Western swing. His instrumental knowledge has allowed Nickerson to find his own five-string technique. Adding backup on this album are award-winning artists Riders in the Sky, Mike Bub of the Del McCoury Band and Darol Anger of the original David Grisman Quintet. Songs such as "San Antonio Rose," "Ghost Riders in the Sky," "Jesse James" and "Streets of Laredo" never sounded so fresh. Ross has hosted banjo workshops in the U.S. and abroad, and recently completed a banjo instructional book, *The Bluegrass Encyclopedia*. He also teaches a banjo class at www.banjoteacher.com. —GUS WALKER

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The books listed are reprints of books written in the 1800's by the rugged men who tamed the west. They are fascinating to read and give an unforgettable glimpse of everyday life in the old west. The best books about the frontier were written by the men that lived there.

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Famous Outlaws Tell Their Own Stories

Jesse James- My Father ...Jesse James Jr. wrote this book in 1899 to tell his version of his father's story and to dispel some of the rumors in circulation. He shows how Jesse lived & died

The Life & Tragic Death of Jesse James...Written in 1883 by a member of Jesse's gang who dared not disclose his identity for fear of reprisal. He describes all the gang members, reports the details of their robberies and tells about Jesse's life on the run.

The Story of Cole Younger- By Himself...Cole wrote this book right after he got out of prison in 1903. He tells all about his life exploits, capture and the lessons he learned from it all.

The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid ...by Pat Garrett, the Sheriff who hunted down and captured Billy the Kid. Hundreds of books were written about "The Kid" soon after he died. This one is considered by many to be one of the more accurate.

The Life of John Wesley Hardin- By Himself...Wes Hardin was one of the most notorious Texans who ever lived. This desperate gunfighter never backed away from a fight and probably killed over 40 men. Wrote his book in the state pen in 1893.

Accounts of Personal Frontier Adventures

Journal of a Trapper: Or 8 Years in the Rocky Mountains ... Os Russell was a fur trapper & hunter in the Utah-Idaho-Wyoming area in 1834-43. He describes: •His adventures & travels as a trapper •The annual Green River Rendezvous •Attacks by Blackfoot & Crows •Encounters with grizzly bears •Tells what equipment a trapper carried and how it was used.

12 Years in the Saddle for Law & Order ...Written in 1909 by Sgt W. Sullivan of the Texas Rangers. Tells how he spent most of his life tracking down badmen on the run in several western territories. He had run-ins with many famous outlaws, lots of firefights & narrow escapes. Very exciting and well written.

Sixteen Months at the Gold Diggings ...One of the 1st books written about the gold fields. Daniel Woods went to California at the very start of the gold rush. After working there for 16 mo he wrote this book of his experiences. He reveals the hardships the miners faced, describes the methods they used & tells what they made.

Skills of the Early West

The Dead Shot...by W. Marksman in 1864. "A treatise on the use of the gun with rudimentary and finishing lessons in the art of shooting game of all kinds." An accomplished shooter teaches you how to become an expert with the oldtime shotgun.

The Hunter & Trapper...An excellent book on hunting & trapping. Halsey Thrasher was a very successful outdoorsman. In 1888 he wrote this book to teach his skills to others. He gives hints on: Traps-how to select & use them, Dressing furs, Use of the rifle, Habits of many game animals, How to hunt.

Placer Mining- Handbook for Klondike Miners ... by James O. When gold was discovered in Alaska in 1896, many thought you could run up there and pick it off the ground. This book tells what equipment to bring and how to recover gold.

Equitation & Horse Training ...by the U.S. Cavalry. This was the Army's standard training manual for horse soldiers in the years before World War One. Tells how to select, train & care for horses. Used by both officers & soldiers.

The Army Horse in Accident & Disease...Taught soldiers of the old US Cavalry how to care for their mounts both at the post and out on patrol. Contains some very interesting oldtime horse medicine.

Riding & Training Saddle Horses...In the 1880s it became popular in the US to learn the finer points of horsemanship. This book was printed in 1885 to teach the public to ride better. It describes a more gentle method of horse training.

Confessions of a Horse Dealer...Not a western book, but very interesting & entertaining. Written by a man who sold horses in London in 1860. Reveals all the the mischief & deceptions pulled by horse traders. Britain's horse dealers were just as dishonest as those in the West! If you have ever bought or sold a horse you owe it to yourself to read this book.

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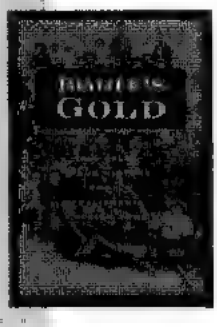
When was the Last Gold Rush on the Western Frontier? Where is California's Official Gold Rush Ghost Town?

The Glory Days in Goldfield, Nevada

Mining historian Sally Zanjani has a personal connection to Goldfield—her father was one of thousands who joined the Gold Rush. In her new book, Zanjani tells the colorful history of the town through an extensive photographic essay celebrating the centennial of the last Gold Rush on the Western frontier.

160 pp., 167 b/w photos, 16 illus., 1 map • 0-87417-520-8, hardcover $31.95



Bodie's Gold: Tall Tales and True History From a California Mining Town

A visit to Bodie to photograph a family homestead sparked this project for writer Marguerite Sprague. She includes interviews with former Bodie residents as well as numerous historic photographs in her lively account of California's official Gold Rush ghost town.

264 pp., 79 b/w photos, 1 illus., 1 map
0-87417-511-9, hardcover $34.95

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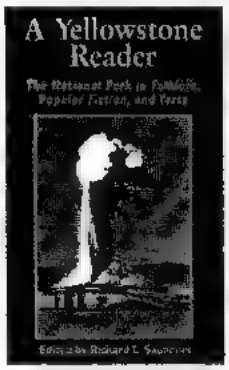

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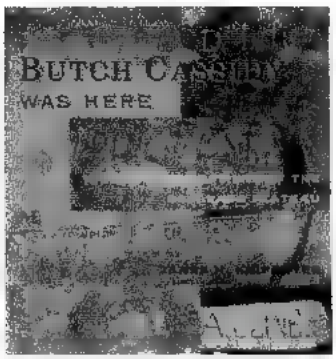

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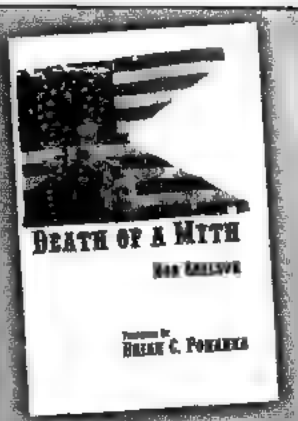

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- **Classic Gunfights:** Blackjack Ketchum Gang at Turkey Creek Canyon, New Mexico.
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PAUL H. CARLSON

The year 1877, a drought year in West Texas, saw some forty buffalo soldiers strike out into the Llano Estacado to pursue a band of raiding Comanches. Several days later they were missing and presumed dead. Although most of the soldiers straggled back into camp, four died, and others faced court-martial for desertion. Here, Carlson uses archival records to provide insights into this horror on the Staked Plains.

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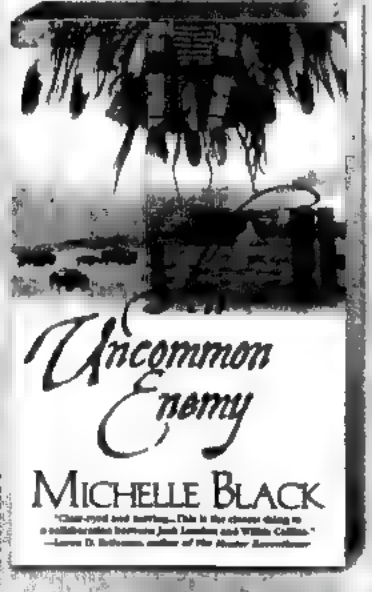

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AN UNCOMMON ENEMY

On the day after Thanksgiving, 1868, George Custer and the Seventh Cavalry attack a sleeping Cheyenne village. During the senseless slaughter that follows, the men find Eden Murdoch, a white woman presumed dead years before. Refusing to acknowledge that she was "rescued" from a "savage" society, Eden begins to set in motion events that will echo all the way to Little Bighorn.

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BY DALE WALKER

Western Treasure Hunter

Michelle Black.

"Research is the reason I find historical novels a joy to write," says Michelle Black. "I have loved research since my law school days. It's like a treasure hunt."

Her first two books, *Never Come Down* (a mining-town mystery and e-book bestseller) and *Lightning in a Drought Year* (set in 1880s Kansas and endorsed by the National Education Association) each earned Black a Colorado Independent Publisher Award.

An Uncommon Enemy, about the months following the Custer battle of the Washita in 1868, appeared in 2001 from Forge Books. It was inspired by Black's intensive reading on the Washita fight.

Its sequel, *Solomon Spring*, released by Forge in 2002, picks up the story 10 years after the events of *An Uncommon Enemy* and centers around a sacred Indian spring threatened by white entrepreneurs who bottle the spring's mystical waters.

Her third Forge novel, *Eye Dazzler* (the name of a Leadville, Colorado, gold mine) will be published later this year. It is set in 1880 Leadville, Colorado, when the first railroad was approaching and the town was in the grip of a labor strike.

Black earned a law degree from the University of Kansas and practiced the profession before moving with her family to Frisco, Colorado, in 1993. There, her husband Doug, also a lawyer, set up a practice while she discovered three new professions.

Michelle Black with Solomon Spring.

COURTESY MICHELLE BLACK –

First, she opened a bookstore. That venture led to her studying the language of the Cheyenne people and devoting time to the movement to save Native American languages from extinction. She then became a publisher, launching WinterSun Press and issuing an audiotape language course, "Let's Talk Cheyenne," produced in a non-profit collaboration with the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana.

Black also began writing historical fiction and in this she found her life's work.

Black finds inspiration in diaries, letters and old newspapers, adding, "In researching the Battle of the Washita I was able to obtain all of Custer's personal correspondence on microfilm from the New York Public Library. Those letters, most written to his wife Libby, provided a marvelous window . . . into life in the 1860s and 70s. Here Custer was completely candid about what was going on in his life and career, peppering his letters with jokes, gossip, and complaints about superiors and subordinates."

Now writing from her home in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, she describes her typical work day as beginning with "correspondence, electronic and otherwise," then a trip to the stables to ride or at least check on her horse (named Solomon Spring, she bought him with the publisher's advance from the novel of the same name). She writes late at night, "a legacy of the years when my children were small and no serious concentration could occur until around eight or nine o'clock in the evening." She dreams "plot twists," she says, and has a self-lighted notebook on her bedside table in case she awakens with an idea.

She says, "I love to write about the West because I feel, like many others, that there is something about the idea of the West that defines the American character and makes us unique. It has to do with the promise of limitless possibilities."

Black is presently at work on a Western re-telling of Oliver Twist, "with an extremely evil woman in the role of Fagin." Like Oliver, Black's readers are sure to ask for "More."

Dale L. Walker has four Spur Awards and his book, *Eldorado: the California Gold Rush*, was released by Forge Books in Jan. 2003.

"Even if you're on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."

- Will Rogers

Finest

In Each Issue We Profile Some Of The Finest Purveyors Of The Old West.

Sun Welding Safe Company

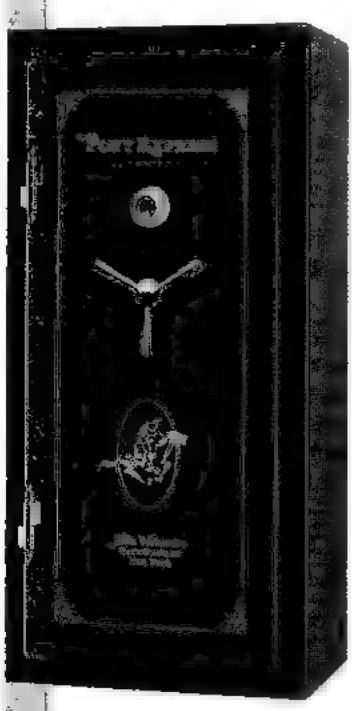
If Bruce Cary had started his Sun Welding Safe Company in 1880 instead of 1980, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid may never have succumbed to a life of crime. There would have been no profit for them, merely frustration. You see, Bruce's safes are so strong, no one yet has ever broken into one.

Bruce Cary.

– Courtesy Sun Welding Safe Company –

Bruce built his first safe to store his own guns and valuables. Because he's right-handed, he put the hinges on the left, allowing him to reach into the safe with his dominant hand. (Southpaws can order Sun Welding safes with right-side hinges.) No sooner did Bruce lock the door on his initial safe than his father and brother asked him to make safes for them. As Bruce says, "The rest is history."

Located in Simi Valley, California, the Sun Welding Safe Company offers a variety of safes, filling a multitude of needs. The top of the line Cavalry model is made with a ¾-inch steel door, ⅝-inch steel body and 16 or 18 one-inch-diameter locking bolts. All Sun safes use Sargent & Greenleaf Group II locks (digital locks are optional).



Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid would never have gotten into this safe!

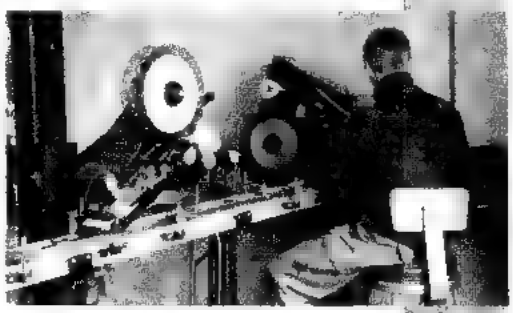
Courtesy Sun Welding Safe Company –

Sun customers include a who's who from Hollywood and professional sports, and Universal Studios featured one of the company's Mustang safes in the 2002 crime thriller *Red Dragon*. Although evildoers repeatedly tried to destroy the safe with fire and explosives, it remained intact, protecting a valuable scrapbook stored inside. It's a good thing Butch and Sundance never had to tackle anything as formidable or their outlaw reputations would have suffered.

Coltsfoot, Inc.

Jonie and Bob Anderson named their Grants Pass, Oregon, company Coltsfoot, but don't ask them to shoe your horses. Their company's name refers to herbal plants with large rounded leaves that resemble the foot of a colt.

In 1984, a customer at the Andersons' dry cleaners and Laundromat introduced them to a non-tobacco chew he was developing. The Andersons soon became partners with him, producing Golden Eagle Herbal Chews, a safe alternative to smokeless tobacco. Jonie and Bob eventually took over Coltsfoot when their partner left town in the early 1990s.



Jonie and Bob's 15-year-old son Tom labels Coltsfoot's Golden Eagle Herbal Chews cans.

Courtesy Coltsfoot, Inc. –

According to the Andersons, Golden Eagle Herbal Chews contain no nicotine or caffeine and will not harm your teeth or gums. As an added bonus, the chews are easier on your wallet than snuff. Whether flavored with Licorice Mint, Wintergreen, Cinnamon, Hibiscus-Ginger or the tobacco-like taste of the company's "Straight" blend, the chews contain a mixture of herbs. Coltsfoot advertises a number of benefits to its herbal ingredients, such as red clover: high in iron; hawthorne: beneficial for the heart and blood pressure; bee pollen: combats fatigue and depression; angelica: aids digestion; orange peel: contains vitamin C and black walnut: contains natural fluoride.

Jonie and Bob Anderson's herbal chews will do your body good.

– Courtesy Coltsfoot, Inc. –

Perhaps the biggest beneficiary of Golden Eagle Herbal Chews is the game of baseball. Players who use them instead of snuff or chewing tobacco no longer have a reason to foul their dugouts. Batter up!

— R.G. Robertson

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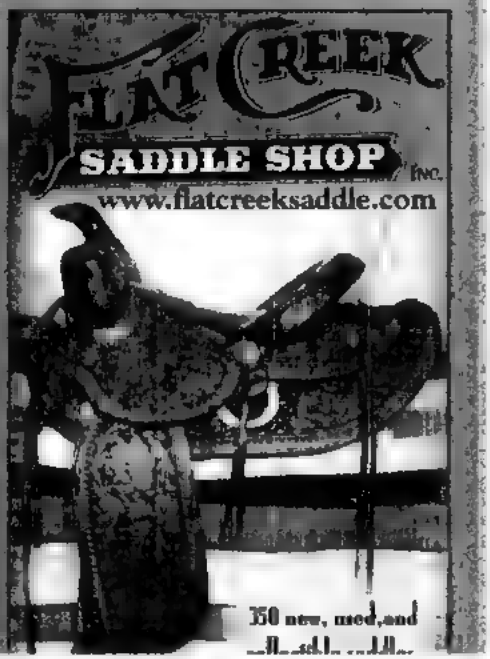

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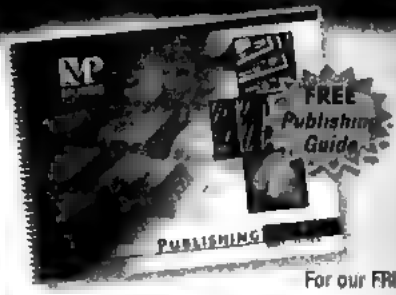

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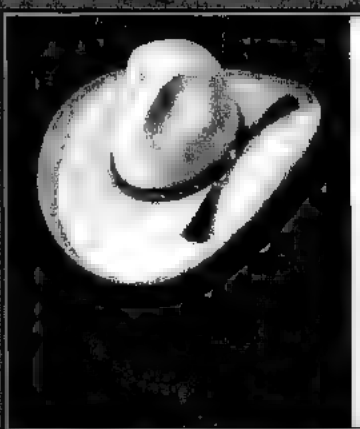

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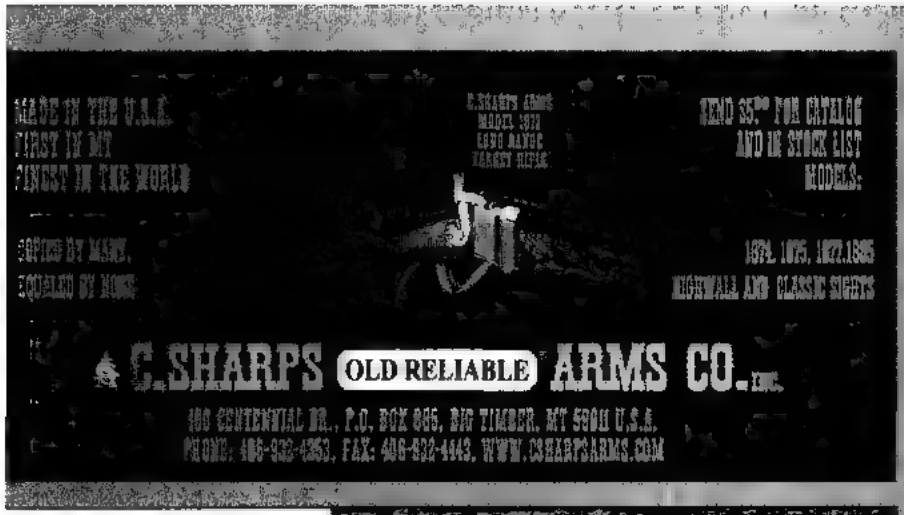

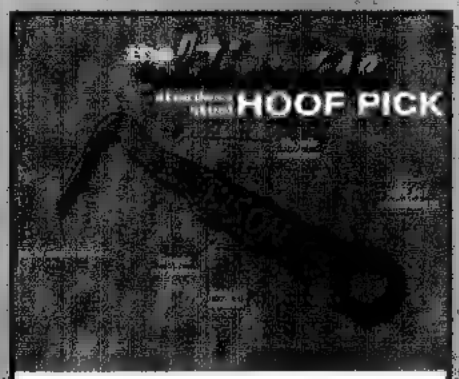

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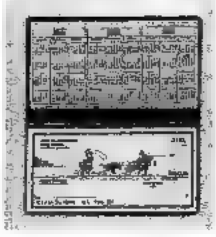
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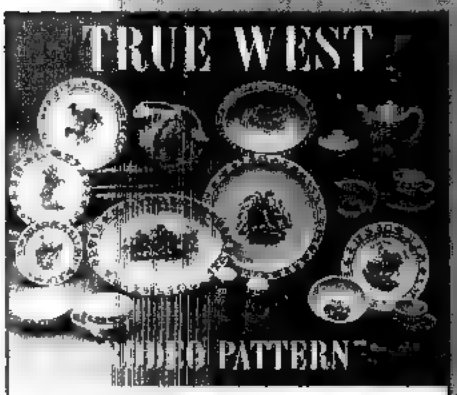

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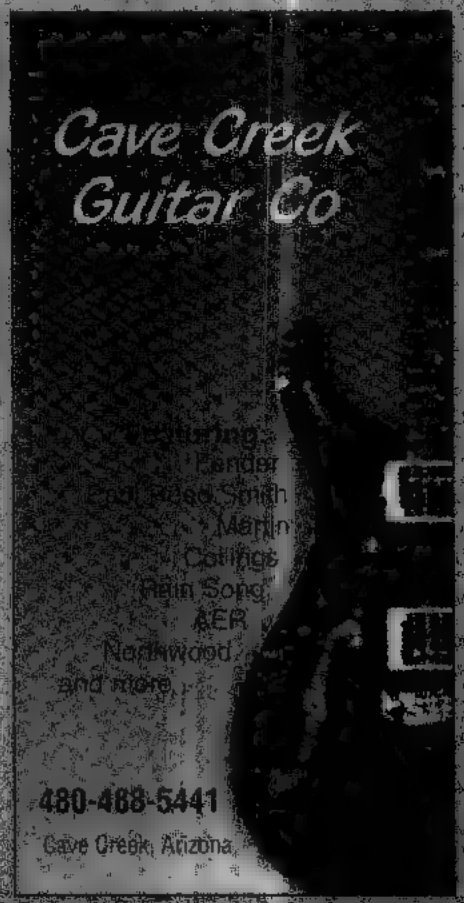

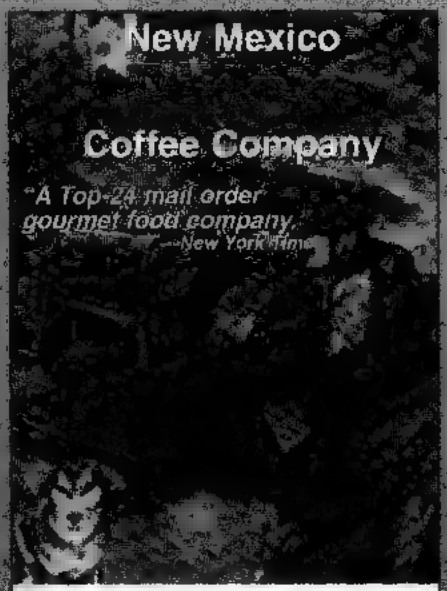

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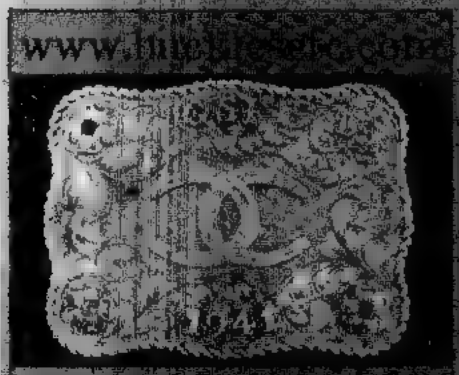

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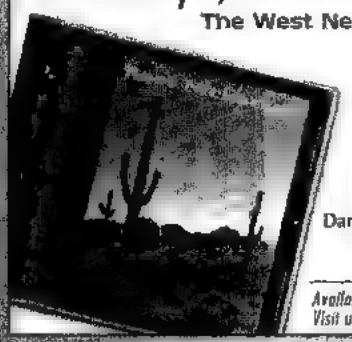

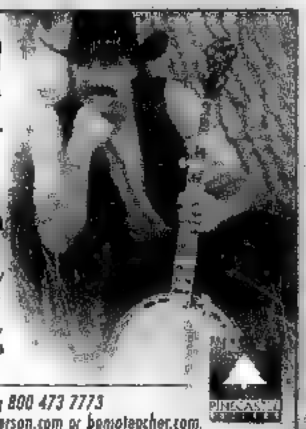

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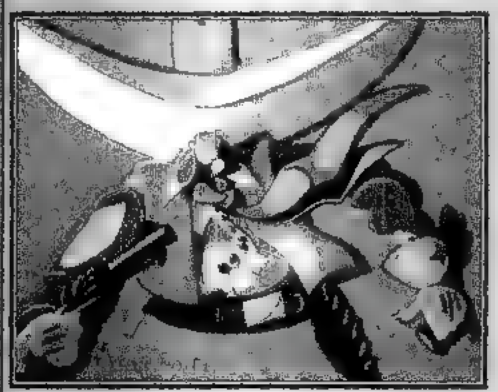

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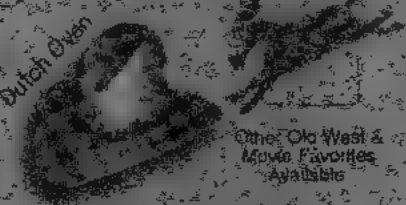

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Ask the Marshall

Q The photo in the Feb/March 2003 *Ask the Marshall* is well-known. I could never understand the "cap" the bartender is wearing. Any ideas on this?

Harold Leppich
Monroe, Louisiana

A That photo was shot in Tascosa, Texas, in 1908, by one of the greatest cowboy photographers, Erwin Smith. It's one of my favorites. Smith really captured the essence of the cowboy, but, you're right, that cap just doesn't fit.

This 1880s photograph of a horse race in Socorro, New Mexico, shows one of the riders wearing a cap.

True West Archives

Q Something we never see in the movies is how people dealt with the delicate subject of wiping their bottoms. What can you tell us about the subject?

Warren and Millie Sutherland
Gulfport, Mississippi

A I knew that question would come up sooner or later. Sex, foul language and violence is okay for the movies, but Americans aren't yet ready for graphic bathroom scenes.

Dysentery and diaper rash were the nemesis of frontier life and make one question whether the "good old days" were really that good.

Early-day Americans cleaned up in a variety of ways—from leaves to grass to corn cobs. The Vikings used discarded wool; French royalty used lace or silk and the Romans used sponges.

It wasn't until 1890, about the time the frontier closed, that the Scott Paper Company came out with toilet paper on a roll. The marketing of such an unmentionable product caused the company to be so embarrassed it wouldn't put its name on the package. Toilet paper turned out to be a success and the company really cleaned up . . . sorry.

Q My father used to tell us about a fight between the Everetts and Tutts in Yellville, Arkansas. Was there a feud?

D.W. Everett
Freeland, Wyoming

A Yes, there was a feud between the Everetts and Tutts in Marion County, Arkansas, during the years proceeding the Civil War. One of those who experienced its violence was young Dave Tutt.

He joined the Confederate Army in 1862. Two years later he was living in Springfield, Missouri, where he became friends with Wild Bill Hickok. Both men went around town with a pair of pistols strapped to their belts and were referred to as "noted scouts, desperadoes and gamblers."

One night they quarreled over a card game (and maybe a woman). The next day, July 21, 1865, in a Springfield public square, they strolled toward each other and established the "walk and draw gunfight." From a distance of about 100 paces, each fired his pistol. Hickok's round hit Tutt in the heart and he "bit the dust."

Q In the basement photo gallery of Tombstone's Bird Cage Theatre there is a photograph claiming to be "the only known photo of Curly Bill." Indeed, the man does have curly hair. Do you have any thoughts on the matter?

Ivan Kershner
Via the Internet

A Nobody can say for sure it is Curly Bill, and nobody can say for sure it isn't.

Tombstone historian Ben Traywick says when examining the photo with a magnifying glass you can see signs of the gunshot wound Curly Bill got earlier at Galeyville. Some Curly Bill aficionados insist it isn't him.

Reminds me of the controversy as to whether or not Wyatt killed him at Iron (Mescal) Springs. It's more about which story you choose to believe.

The handwritte caption on thi photo, alleged of Curly Bil identifies the ma as Willian Bracius, 188

Courtesy Bird Cag Theatre

Q What happened to the killer of Pat Garrett?

Nick Nixon
St. Peters, Missouri

A Around 1908, Sheriff Pat Garrett, "The Man Who Shot Billy the Kid," leased a piece of ground near Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Wayne Brazel. They got into a feud when Brazel turned a herd of goats out to graze the land.

Along came Carl Adamson, accompanied by the notorious assassin "Killer Jim" Miller. A few miles outside Las Cruces, Garrett, Brazel and Adamson were riding along when Garrett stepped down from his buggy to relieve himself. Suddenly a shot rang out, and a bullet hit Garrett

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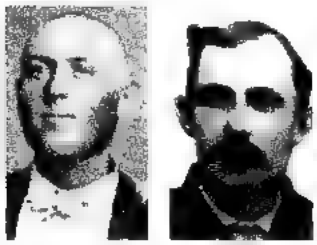

Although Wayne Brazel (left), took credit for killing Pat Garrett, many say hired assassin "Killer Jim" Miller (right) did it.

TRUE WEST ARCHIVES

the back of the head. He spun ound and another caught him in the id-section. The former lawman fell ead. Brazel claimed he had killed arrett in self-defense (while Garrett as taking a leak?). However, it's enerally believed Miller did the deed.

A gun for hire, Miller charged $150 er victim. Also a devout Methodist, he reached between jobs, and earned the ıore respectable nickname, "Deacon."

In 1909, a year after he bushwhacked arrett, Miller was hired to kill klahoma rancher A.A. Bobbitt. He ılfilled his contract and headed back) Texas, but he was extradited to the cene of the crime at Ada, Oklahoma, nd lynched with the three men who ad hired him.

Brazel is thought to have been killed ı Bolivia around 1915.

"Killer Jim" Miller (far left) was hanged in a barn with the three men who had hired him to murder rancher A.A. Bobbitt.

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Marshall Trimble is Arizona's official historian. His books include *Law of the Gun* and *Never Give A Heifer A Bum Steer.* **If you have a question, write:** Ask the Marshall, PO Box 8008, Cave Creek, AZ 85327

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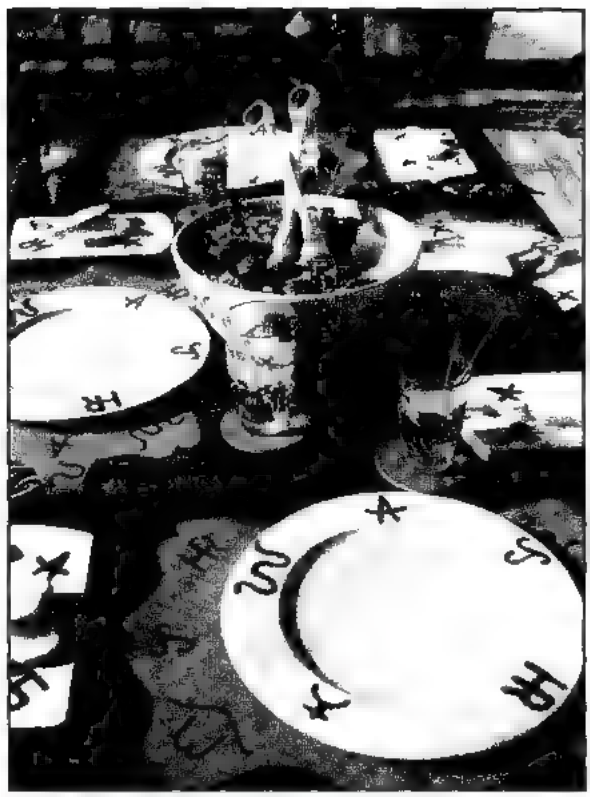

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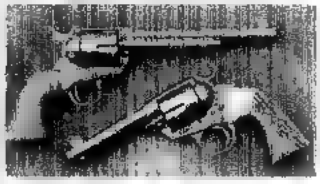

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The Bull Pen

True West Sports Quiz
By Jack Connelly

(Answers below)

1. Name two major league baseball teams which have nicknames reminiscent of the first settlers of the Old West.

2. What name fits quarterback Drew Bledsoe as well as it did William Cody?

3. What gory word, once associated with Indians, now applies to a person who sells sports tickets at inflated prices?

4. Florida State U. took its nickname from which Indian tribe?

1. Indians & Braves 2. Buffalo Bill 3. Scalper 4. Seminoles

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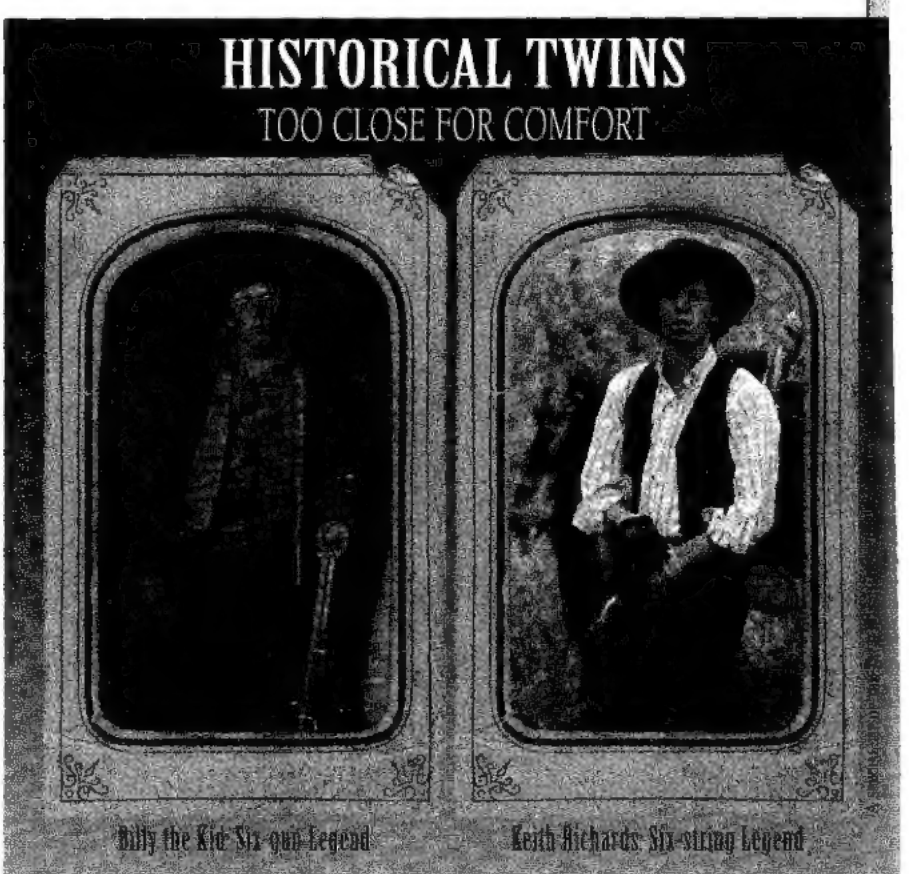

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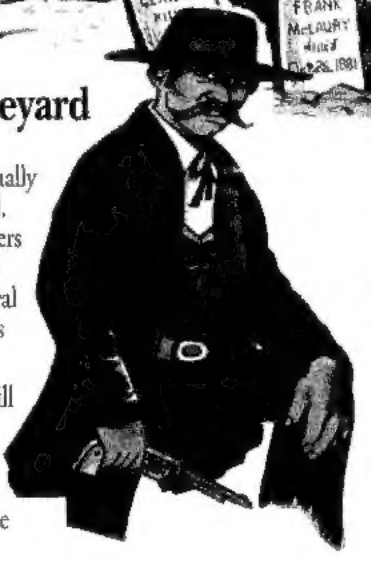

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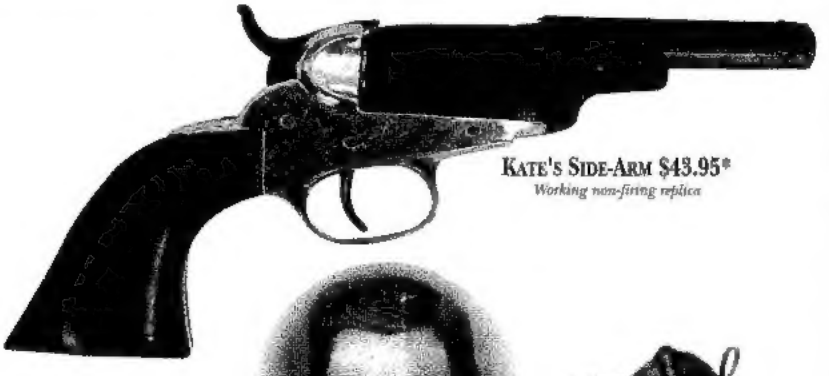

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